



Photo by Deborah Nelsky

Angel Lopez views one of Jesus Helguera's works at the Mission Cultural Center (see page 23).

MAYOR MEETS WITH NEIGHBORHOOD PRESS

- by Victor Miller

On September 12, Mayor Art Agnos met in the first of a regular series of quarterly press conferences with members of the newly formed San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association. Attending the 2 1/2 hour session were the editors and/or publishers of the North Mission News, San Francisco Times, The Street, The New Fillmore, The Visitation Valley Grapevine, North Beach Now, The Marina, The Tenderloin Times and The New Bernal Journal.

The meeting began with the Mayor taking a firm stand against two propositions on the November ballot, Proposition U which limits rent increases on vacant units to 4-7% and Proposition O, which limits Supervisors to two terms of office.

The Mayor conceded that Vacancy Control had indeed been something he campaigned for but was quick to add, "I've also said that there must be certain criteria that have to be part of a vacancy control measure that would have greater flexibility for raising the rent." Agnos described Proposition U as "too narrow and too restrictive." He saw the need for a "good landlord" provision that allowed for some pass-through (i.e. rent increase over 4-7%) in the case of landlords who have had long term tenants and need to modernize after units are vacated. Agnos then expressed his support for legislation introduced by Supervisor Harry Britt which would limit increases on vacant units to 14% but said that the Britt proposal was blocked at the Board at least this year.

When questioned about the viability of such a high cap on rents in neighborhoods such as the Mission and the Tenderloin, where units turn over every six months to a year, the Mayor admitted that "If that's the case, I don't think it ought to go up 14%. I would hope that, in a public hearing process, that kind of question would develop a better answer than just one flat fee for everyone. One size doesn't fit all, that's what I'm saying."

Besides his specific objections to Proposition U, Agnos also expressed his disappointment that the initiative process had been used on such a delicate matter. "I think the only way this is going to be a good piece of legislation is through the legislative process," i.e. the Board of Supervisors as opposed to the current ballot proposition that is the result of a petition campaign. The Mayor said he was "increasingly troubled by the initiative because it creates a winner-take-all situation" and stated that he did not want "our city constantly faced with divisive ballot measures that don't solve the problem. In large part, these measures become part of someone's political agenda." The only solace supporters of Proposition U can take from the Mayor's remarks is his decision not to "spend my political capital trying to defeat it" (which hasn't prevented the landlords' campaign run by a creature of Agnos' rival Quentin Kopp from sprinkling various excerpts from the Mayor's Anti-U statements around the City).

(For a different view on Vacancy Control, see the Tenant Times insert, written by former Agnos precinct captains, following page 14.)

The Mayor was even less delighted with Proposition O which would limit supervisors to two terms of office. Agnos described Proposition O as a badly drafted piece of legisla-

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HALFWAY HOUSE IN LIMBO

Plans by the S.F. Health Department to put a 52 unit psychiatric halfway house on Woodward Avenue remain up in the air following a September 22nd meeting between program sponsors and a committee of neighborhood residents. As reported last issue, two previous meetings in August regarding the halfway house (Hotel Dolores) degenerated into shouting matches with one session being so disorganized and ill-tempered that the police were called.

In contrast to these rather rowdy sessions organized by Community Mental Health Services, a strategy session attended by 60 neighbors in early September proceeded in a calm and orderly fashion to draw up a list of questions regarding Hotel Dolores and choose a representative to meet with Health Department officials by September 22nd.

At the September 22nd meeting, Health Department sponsors of Hotel Dolores did resolve a few key questions. Hotel Dolores will not accept clients who have been seen for only 72 hours at S.F. General. The Hotel Dolores will accept only clients who are non-violent, without a history of drug abuse and who have been long term problem-free participants in other residential programs. Staffing at the site between midnight and 8 AM will consist of one security guard. Individuals in the program who create problems in the com-

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★ the North Mission Association ★

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★ FOR SUPERVISOR ★

★ Saturday, October 15th, 11am, ★

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MAYOR

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tion. He objected most strongly to one feature of the legislation which would . . . under one interpretation of the Proposition . . . recall all current members of the Board. Agnos called this provision an unfair way to treat current Board members. Although he said he accepted "the validity of a limitation on Supervisors' terms of office," the Mayor felt such a limitation should be "prospective" and apply only to future elections to the Board, as opposed to Proposition O which he termed "retroactive." Agnos stressed the need for a stable legislative body to deal with the many complex problems facing the City. He predicted that if Proposition O passed, with its complicated sequence of elections and lame duck terms, "a chaotic situation would be created."

The mayor said he was not unaware of a good deal of public dissatisfaction with the current Board and briefly floated the idea of numbered seats as a possible solution. Under this system, a supervisorial candidate could declare himself or herself to be running against a particular incumbent and not simply just a candidate for supervisor. Proponents of this system argue that it is a good way to remove incompetents and, at the same time, maintain able incumbents in office. Opponents of the system contend it plays into the hands of monied interests who would pour big bucks into campaigns that targeted progressives. That Agnos, who is regarded as a progressive, suggested the numbered seat system was, therefore, mystifying.

Agnos then went on to defend his administration's record in dealing with the homeless. He said he was "committed to developing a long term plan to deal with the one night stands for homeless," a reference to the Feinstein warehouse approach which constantly moves people from one residential hotel to another. The Mayor denied that his policy towards the vehicular homeless, people living in their cars, had been inconsistent. "I asked that enforcement of the law be relaxed for a period so we could explore alternatives . . . all of the options and alternatives and creative ideas that were brought to my office were explored and none panned out. Reluctantly, when I came to the conclusion that there were no other alternatives, I had to do what I took an oath to uphold, and that was to enforce the laws of this City. I can't simply wink at those I don't like and support those I do like." The vehicular homeless who had congregated around the Panhandle area of the Haight have been moved out by the Police.

The Mayor also stated his reservations about too vague a definition of the homeless and the consequences of including people in that category who are not truly needy:

"I'm not so sure anymore how you define a homeless person. Is it a college student who decides to come to San Francisco and spend a summer in the back of a van? In a camper? Is it someone who is following the Grateful Dead for their season and because they're in San Francisco they're here to watch the concerts? Frankly, I don't think that is a homeless person. To me, a homeless person is someone who, for any set of reasons attributed to their health and their employment and those kinds of social and employment factors, cannot support themselves in a way that will allow them to purchase housing. Not someone who decides to take the summer off and follow a band. Not someone who decides to take the summer off and save money by living in the back of a car or a camper. Indeed, when that does happen, it creates a certain kind of attitude on the part of a compassionate citizenry that can be counterproductive to those who do need help.

"Some people . . . are kind of riding the backs of the homeless to avoid a responsibility to self sufficiency that they are capable of exercising . . . I think they are creating more problems for poor people who are homeless than they deserve or need."

In response to a question regarding the controversy over the Food Not Bombs group that had been ousted from Golden Gate Park for distributing free food, Agnos was critical of Food Not Bombs and defended the actions taken against them by the Police:

"Their primary purpose, as I understand it, is to promote a political message . . . if they were choosing to set up tables from the same location from which the police moved them for two consecutive weeks and hand out political literature there would be no problem. But since they also chose to serve food in violation of a number of regulations that applied to that area, then we have to uphold the law and we simply can't allow everyone to set up shop wherever they choose based on their own agenda because I think it creates some other problems that may be far worse than what they're trying to correct.

"We're going to have to set some criteria for how we're going to deal with outside food distribution in our City - we have to say what is going to be paramount, the needs of the people who need the food or the group that is seeking to distribute it, if the two are not consistent . . . but respecting the dignity and privacy of the person receiving it or the political message of the group that is distributing it.

"The question becomes should we allow a group to go anywhere they wish in the name of serving the homeless? Is that in the best interest of the homeless or the group? I think that's a policy issue that we have to start addressing."

A sort of cease-fire is in effect between Food Not Bombs and the cops. (For more on the Agnos administration's policy towards the homeless, see the interview with Director of Social Services Julia Lopez on page 8 of this issue.)

On the topic of crime and deteriorating conditions of housing projects, Agnos was candid in not offering any hope for quick solutions. He said the immediate goal of his administration was to fill the position of Director of the Housing Authority, which is currently vacant. Agnos said the primary problem with the projects was at the federal level where housing projects are viewed "strictly as a real estate management problem." Agnos sharply disagreed with this analysis. He stressed the real need for adequate law enforcement, social and job programs for project residents and the real absence of funding for these programs. The mayor expressed a willingness to explore ideas of tenant management and/or ownership of the projects, but did not elaborate on this.

The next regular meeting between Mayor Agnos and the neighborhood press is set for some time in December. A tip of the hat to the Mayor's press aide Scott Shaeffer for doing the preparatory work in this event, and to Art Agnos himself for suggesting these conferences occur on a regular basis.

HALFWAY HOUSE

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munity will probably be removed from the program through the eviction process, which could take months. Nevertheless, Woodward residents still felt a more detailed presentation of programs before a large community meeting would be necessary before neighborhood opposition could be overcome. The program's sponsors have agreed to this but no date has been set.

In response to last month's article on the Hotel Dolores, the North Mission News received the following letter from Elizabeth Anello, Co-Director of Social Work for Health Care for the Homeless, a project of the San Francisco Health Department.

Dear Editor:

It won't be difficult for neighborhood residents who've been around for awhile to recall the extended efforts of the North Mission Association to organize members of the community on Woodward Street to rally in support of a nonprofit development on 35 Woodward Street. For many years that building sat vacant, vandalized, nearly extinct, like many others in the arson-ravaged North Mission. Absentee private owners of residential buildings were finally held accountable in one case after another by neighborhood activists. It was a major victory for the neighborhood when MHDC purchased the site.

The recent charade perpetrated by CMHS's top management -- the attempt to silence neighborhood involvement with heavy-handed and divisive maneuvers combined with an obvious failure to provide a program design with adequate human care -- should also be no surprise to community residents and NMA members. NMA's long involvement with CMHS through the District Advisory Board evidenced the stubborn persistence of that agency to avoid or minimize all community input to the issues pertaining to the care of the mentally ill. As Co-Director of Social Work for Health Care for the Homeless I am well aware of both the strengths and the weaknesses of community residential care of the mentally ill. Program staff generally do their best to provide support and care for residents. Fears of resident violence are often exaggerated; on the other hand, program rules and house management can foster resident antagonism. Often the capacity of residents to collaborate with each other, in a self-help fashion, is underrecognized. The worst that does sometimes happen is that house management and even program staff can be seen as "coercive" by residents and, from this view, only trouble results. It is the responsibility of the program management to build in resident cooperation. One wonders whether CMHS is capable of doing that when they can't seem to gain neighborhood cooperation.

The neighborhood does have very legitimate concerns with the Woodward project. The recent reactions did not come overnight; CMHS has been skirting the community on this one for some time now. The community has a right to understand the purpose and the procedures of the program. They ought to be given correct information about the reasons for placement in this setting and they ought to know all the other agencies and programs that will be linkages to the program.

I think the neighborhood also has the obligation to be empathetic to the mentally ill who are, in fact, less violent as a group than the general population. But many misconceptions about the mentally ill could be dispelled if CHMS did the job of community education it receives public monies to do. Further, I think the neighborhood has the obligation to persist in demanding that this program be designed to provide full adequacy of human care for its residents with several clinical back-up services and plenty of communication channels for neighborhood people.

Elizabeth Anello

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SINGAPORE
Tiger

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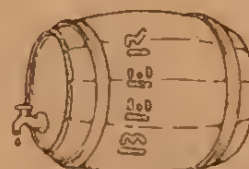
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THE RACE FOR SUPERVISOR AT A GLANCE

CANDIDATES' MORNING - OCTOBER 15TH

A crowded field of Supervisors, potential Supervisors and wannabe Supervisors will address the North Mission community on Saturday, October 15 at the Roxie Cinema. Due to the large field of contenders, a first shift will appear at 11AM, a second shift at noon. As always, this is perhaps the only opportunity that many people will have to question those who will represent the North Mission at City Hall for the next four years (or for one year if the Barbagelata recall . . . Proposition O . . . passes in November).

As is our custom, the News sent an extensive questionnaire to the candidates and their replies to the most controversial elements are reprinted below. As also is customary, those out of power replied promptly and extensively while a number of incumbents and "top" challengers replied either grudgingly or not at all. Their lack of enthusiasm for committing themselves may be justified by the fact that there is one guaranteed open seat and, to this point, the race for Presidency of the Board might be a five or even six or eight or ten way race.

A full copy of the questionnaire will be available at the Roxie on the 15th, and we hope that all candidates will have replied by then. Meanwhile, our congratulations to challenger

Harry Britt (HB), Stephanie Hedgecock (SH), Harold Hoogasian (HH), Chuck Lantz (CL), Bruce Lilienthal (BL), Julie Nix (JN), Pat Norman (PN), Harriet Ross (HR), Jane Winslow (JW).

Would you support a two-term limit (retroactive, odd year - Prop O)?
Would you support City money spent on Missouri homeporting - Prop S)?
Would you support Vacancy Rent Control (4-7% vacancy increase - Prop U)?
As above, but with double (8-14%) vacancy increase?
Would you support renegotiation of Hetch Hetch Contracts (Prop Z)?
Would you support municipalization of Hetch Hetchy power?
If the Dannemeyer AIDS initiative passes, would you refuse to vote for local implementation (which could conceivably subject you to criminal penalties)?
Would you support limiting Supervisorial resolutions on non-City issues?
Would you vote for balanced City budgets for the years 1989-1993?
Would you favor over-budget expenditure for AIDS treatment/information programs
As above regarding public safety programs (police, fire expenditures)?
As above for mail service to the homeless (to get their State or Fed. checks)
Would you vote to raise MUNI fares to \$1.00 before 1993?
Would you vote for increases in the City's payroll, business or sales tax?
Would you vote to invest in City-sponsored employment for the unemployed?
Would you support repeal of Prop. M if office vacancies fall below 8%?
Would you support office construction under 50,000 sq. feet outside downtown?
Would you support (& pay for) modernization of Port facilities?
Would you support a China Basin stadium subsidized by a 7th & Townsend arena?
Would you encourage development of City owned land outside City limits?
Would you support corporate sponsored apprenticeships for secondary students?
Would you require teachers to pass periodic "competency" tests?
Would you restore MUNI service cuts by 1989 regardless of deficit situation?
Would you encourage MUNI Metro expansion down Third Street to Candlestick?
Would you encourage the extension of BART to San Jose, circling the Bay?
Would you rehabilitate unused freeway stubs as commuter parking lots?
Would you support a second automobile tier on the Golden Gate or Bay Bridge?
Would you support a passenger rail tier on the Bay to link up with SP-Oakland?
Would you eliminate mechanical street sweepers and the parking bans therein?
Would you go over budget to supply police manpower to fight the crack trade?
Would you go over budget to expand crack education programs in the schools?
Would you support eviction of drug dealers and families from public housing?
Would you repeal the law prohibiting people from sleeping in their cars?
Would you support stronger Seattle-type laws against "aggressive" panhandling?
Would you support a police kiosk at the 16th/Mission BART Plaza?
Would you spread program housing (parolees, mental, AIDS) out over the City?
Would you require community input/veto on program housing patient selection?
Would you redirect arts funding towards more neighborhood/ethnic venues?
Would you support developing a Latin American trade center in the Mission?
Would you vote to chop down Sutro Tower, if radiation is proven harmful?
Would you support expanded City funding to the Native American Health Center?
Would you oppose corporate merger/acquis. of health facilities like St. Luke's?




Jane Winslow for being the first to return her replies and to the incumbents who answered, Harry Britt and Carol Silver.

The contenders (in alphabetical order) are:

Angela Alioto, attorney and daughter of the former Mayor who finished 8th in 1986, Harry Britt, a former Mission letter carrier and nine-year incumbent running on a progressive record, business lobbyist and former PUC Commissioner Mark Buell, incumbent Jim Gonzalez, two-time candidate and attorney Terence Hallinan, Stephanie Hedgecock, a member of the All People's Congress who recently fought the MUNI fare hikes, florist and Proposition O supporter Harold Hoogasian, Thomas Hsieh and Willie Kennedy, incumbents, Chuck Lantz, a Richmond District activist who supports Proposition U and opposed condo development at Ocean Beach, former Council of District Merchants President Bruce Lilienthal, Humanist Party candidate and District Elections advocate Julie Nix, Bernal Heights progressive and AIDS-patient advocate Pat Norman who finished 7th in 1986, Republican Harriet Ross who opposed John Burton in the Congressional election, incumbent and North Mission resident Carol Ruth Silver and Telegraph Hill small business advocate Jane Winslow.


Brian Doohan

	HB	SH	HH	CL	BL	JN	PN	HR	CS	JW
N	N	Y	N	PN	N	N	Y	N	PY	
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A FEW WORDS ON THE LONG STATE BALLOT

There are also a couple of dozen California propositions, of which space and logic limit discussion of all but a few:

The Lawyer-Insurance Agent War. No less than five initiatives attempt to deal with the insurance mess in ways variously favoring the big insurance companies, the trial lawyers, both or neither. The last, Proposition 103 is endorsed by Ralph Nader and probably is the only one worth supporting, but the insurers have exploited the confusion of five separate initiatives by combining a No on 100 and No on 103 campaign, linking the Nader measure with a pork-barrel giveaway for lawyers. This quintuple chaos is probably going to be the source of the most numerous and irritating commercials with the exception of the Presidential candidates and...

The Cigarette Tax Measure. Proposition 99 commercials already feature police saying that taxing cigarettes to pay for health costs they create will create lucrative and unstoppable opportunities for smugglers. These are the same police who call for more and stronger drug laws like spraying the top half of the state with toxic chemicals resulting in generations of deformed, mutated babies in order to prevent old hippies and bike messengers from sniffing the evil weed. Where is Nancy Reagan when we really need her?

The AIDS Initiatives. Voters rejected two similar measures sponsored by the fantastical Lyndon LaRouche but, according to polls, their rejection was of LaRouche, not of the philosophy which has been picked up by the Dannemeyers of this state. One initiative, dealing with criminals and prostitutes and other unpersons has been given up on by op-

ponents as a lost cause, but the other is going to be fought to the bloody end. The stakes are high, as in the streets of Berlin in 1935. Aside from more or less criminalizing AIDS patients, Dannemeyer hopes to create a police-state network of informers and paid Goerings to compile records on anyone suspected of knowing anybody suspected of having AIDS.

This is something that requires something beyond opposition. A good question to ask the 25 candidates for supervisor this fall: If Dannemeyer passes, will you refuse to vote for measures to bring the city into compliance with the California police-state apparatus even if the consequence is that you will be sentenced to a lengthy prison term? That ought to be one way of winnowing out the crowd of candidates, all of whom will be falling over themselves and each other to express their opposition to Dannemeyer.

Prediction: If this thing passes, there will be some serious discussions on the revival of the split-state or other secession plans.

The Roberti Homeless and Housing Bill. Finally, that rarest of all measures on the California ballot, a measure designed not to enrich a handful of glutted corporate parasites or further punish an oppressed and unpopular minority, but to actually help people, and further, not by taxing other people but by imposing penalties on the state's slumlords. Polls show this measure winning 3-1. It is our only hope... and a faint one... that this "moral majority" will apply the principles they use in voting for this measure to the rest of the ballot, both State and local.



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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT



Photo by Michelle Maria Boleyn

ST. JOHN'S SAFETY COUNCIL

The St. John's Neighborhood Safety Council conducted its sixth monthly meeting this year on August 29th. Sergeant Hampton of the SFPD Juvenile Division addressed the group and answered questions from concerned members.

According to Sgt. Hampton, the SFPD staff includes 17 inspectors in the juvenile division. Thirteen of these specialize in child abuse cases. Two officers cover robberies committed by juveniles and two cover general crimes and malicious damage (resulting in damages greater than \$5,000). The SFPD does not have juvenile inspectors to cover any other juvenile crimes, such as burglary, or crimes and malicious mischief resulting in damages under \$5,000. These are unassigned, and are covered by the regular SFPD staff.

One council member asked what we, as an organized neighborhood, could do about the problem of increasing crimes by juveniles here in the North Mission. Sergeant Hampton claimed the problem is caused by the city's budget crisis. Members were advised to organize into block safety groups and to contact police whenever necessary.

Another topic discussed during the August meeting included the proposed use of the Dolores Hotel as a "supportive independent living project" on Woodward Street. A task force was formed to gather more information about this project, and will report back to the Council during the September meeting.

The St. John's Neighborhood Safety Council was formed this year in March to promote safety in our neighborhood through block safety and community organizing. All neighborhood residents and businesspeople concerned with safety in the North Mission are urged to attend. Meetings are held monthly in the Church of St. John the Evangelist, 15th and Julian Streets. For more information, contact Father Jack Eastwood (861-1436) or David Hurlbert (861-8865).

HISPANIC CULINARY SCHOOL

The Mission Cultural Center of San Francisco is offering Hispanic Style Cooking Classes on the following days:

Saturdays - 9:00 AM to 11:30

Tuesdays - 5:30 PM to 8:00

Saturday classes begin October 8th, for six consecutive weeks. Tuesday classes begin October 11th, for five consecutive weeks.

Fee is \$15 per class. VISA and Master Card are accepted.

Cooking course will include some in-shop cooking and food sampling.

Executive Director Juan Pablo Gutierrez has selected Master Chef Don Jose of the Mission District's Restaurant El Gallego, as the new foods Director and Instructor to teach the Hispanic Culinary Arts.

Chief Don Jose has 28 years experience in the Culinary Industry and has been with El Gallego Restaurant for over 13 years. He will teach basic Hispanic food preparation and "Nouvelle Hispanic Cuisine". He also plans to have guest chefs from other Mission District Hispanic Restaurants, presenting Hispanic ethnic foods.

For more information, call Yolanda Lopez at Mission Cultural Center (415) 821-1155.

INNER MISSION HUMANIST COMMUNITY

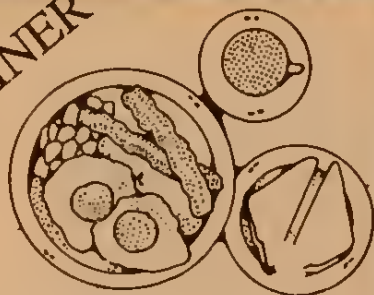
The Inner Mission Humanist Neighborhood Association has been formed to promote revival of community spirit through the formation of cooperatives and teamwork. At our first meeting held Saturday, September 24th at El Picaro Cafe, 8 members of the neighborhood attended a free lawyer's clinic where legal questions were answered by Rick Nemcik Cruz and Steve Wilkinson. Some concerns were the lack of communication between landlords and tenants and poor building maintenance.

Our second project is to secure a store front office where monthly meetings will be held. For more information, and to join us, call Marge at 861-4969 or Rudolpho at 759-8872.

The Inner Mission Humanist Neighborhood Association will enhance the fine work being done by the many other organizations in our neighborhood.



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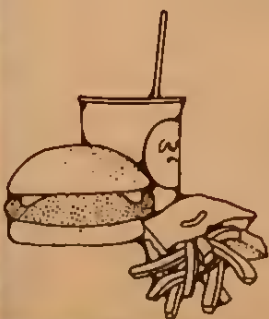
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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT

HUERTA BACKLASH

A town hall meeting at Mission Cultural Center convened by Supervisor Jim Gonzalez on September 19th demonstrated the extent to which the near-fatal beating of United Farm Workers' Vice President Dolores Huerta has infuriated the Mission Community. At a September 14th anti-Bush rally outside the St. Francis Hotel, Huerta was viciously clubbed by a police officer and suffered a ruptured spleen.

The mood at the Mission Cultural Center five days later was one of unadulterated outrage as more than 100 people attending attempted to channel their anger into a program of action that is to be spearheaded by Gonzalez, who chaired the meeting. Suggested responses to the Huerta assault included the firing of the officer responsible, the firing of Police Chief Frank Jordan, disbanding the TAC Squad, reform of Police Academy procedures and an investigation of police brutality complaints coming from recent demonstrations.

Dan Silva, a member of the Office of Civilian Complaints (OCC) that reviews charges of police misconduct, said an investigation by the OCC regarding the Huerta incident would not be completed for three weeks. Silva went on to express his frustration with the history of noncooperation he and fellow Commissioners have had in dealing with the SFPD in general and former Mayor Feinstein in particular. Silva said this has hampered the OCC's credibility with the public and made it difficult for the Commission to find witnesses willing to come forward.

A second purpose of the meeting was to build support for the United Farm Workers' grape boycott. The focus, however, stayed on the police with the boycott getting only about fifteen minutes of discussion at the conclusion of the meeting.

PROFLUENCE

A new community-wide support group for people with a strong artistic bent will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, October 5 from 7:15 to 9 PM at Dolores Street Baptist Church, 208 Dolores Street.

The name of the group is 'Profluence', which means "an abundant flowing forth," says Barry Green, the group coordinator. "Ideally, all of our creative efforts should have this quality about them, and it is one purpose of Profluence to stimulate this flow."

The group hopes to bring together artists and would-be artists from San Francisco's many communities to share ideas and experiences about the creative process. A particular invitation is being extended to the North Mission, located near the church.

Rev. Jim Lowder, Pastor of Dolores Baptist says that Profluence will help to take some of the loneliness out of the creative discipline. "In that Profluence helps to connect people, to make sure they don't suffer any more isolation than the process of creating absolutely requires, it is part and parcel of what Dolores Street is all about."

Profluence will meet monthly at 7:15 on the first Wednesday of each month. More information is available by calling 648-6104.

YES ON E

Proposition E has been placed on the November ballot to extend the Open Space Acquisition and Park Renovation Fund, passed by the voters in 1974 and scheduled to expire in 1990. This Fund has been used for acquisition, development, maintenance and renovation of public open space, recreational facilities and staffing supervision of the after school recreation program.

The environmental group San Francisco states that passage of Proposition E is vital to protect San Francisco's environment and to insure continued high quality of life for all San Francisco residents.

Other supporters include Mayor Agnos, the Board of Supervisors, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods and San Francisco Labor Council.

The campaign committee, People for San Francisco Parks and Open Space is in need of volunteers and contributions. Contact Ruth Gravanis at 585-5304 for more information.



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SOCIAL SERVICES CHIEF SPEAKS OUT

Over the last few months, the North Mission News has run several articles on homelessness in the City and official response. This month we, with the Tenderloin Times, interviewed the new Director of Social Services, Julia Lopez.

Lopez, a veteran of the criminal justice system in New Mexico, worked with then-Assemblyman Art Agnos in Sacramento to pass the controversial GAIN legislation requiring welfare recipients, including single parents to work for their checks. When Agnos was elected Mayor, he chose Lopez to head a troubled department beset with antiquated procedures and equipment, difficult clients and a shrinking budget. In the few short months of her tenure, Lopez has earned the respect of the most critical component of the DSS, the homeless and low-income recipients themselves. But as more and more people fall through the "safety net", budget problems continue and the shortcomings of such programs as the Hotline hotel system mount, the Department's resources and ingenuity will be severely tested. Its success or failure will be immediately visible upon the streets of the North Mission.

Brian Dodhan

When you came to the job, did you find a department in turmoil?

Rose Randolph, the interim chief after Ed Sarsfield resigned did a good job facing a lot of the immediate problems and crises, but she never wanted to be a permanent director with the new Mayor coming in. When I arrived, I discovered systems from World War II. Slowly but surely we're acquiring computers and hope to set up an office automation system.

There are a lot more families with children falling into the system. How will they be treated?

Kids are in trouble and it's getting worse because of crack cocaine. Some of our caseworkers are swamped, they have over 60 cases and too much paperwork and were not able to do as many visits as they should. Automation will clear up a lot of the paperwork and free the social workers to do social work. My goal is to make measurable improvement in the visiting. When we place kids far away in Vallejo or Napa we can't visit as often so we want to make a greater effort to find foster homes in the City.

One problem is the schooling of homeless children. Do you see any significant changes in how this will be handled? And is there any long range plan for older youth beyond sending them back where they came from?

I'm having lunch with (Superintendent of Schools) Ray Cortines soon. Until then, I don't feel able to comment on that. We have met with the probation department and have considered having one or two staff working exclusively with homeless youth. Clearly we don't want to send the kids back, that doesn't work. We want to identify kids who are willing to stay in our system . . . a lot are burned out and don't want anything to do with the system. There has to be a willingness. If we catch them right, we can provide them housing, we can help them deal with looking for a job, opening a checking account, basic skills that you or I would take for granted. Facilities like Hospitality House can do this but they are looking for Federal monies.

What about undocumented youth who cannot be returned to families because the families are not in the United States?

We have just funded a shelter through the Dolores Street Baptist Church who will be opening two centers. They had been operating on a shoestring and were about to close down . . . now we have given them money to house up to 32 young men. And we know they will be undocumented.

Homeless advocates have already noted improvements in hotline procedures. How were these effected?

A group of the homeless asked to meet with me my first day of work and we agreed to sit down and consult with them and work out solutions. And it was their suggestion . . . we used to hand out tickets to hold somebody's place in line and later you would make

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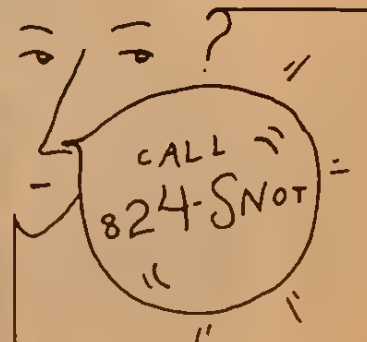
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appointments. They said why don't you just make appointments and we said they would still have to stand in line . . . they said "fine, if we can get out of there earlier we'll be glad to stand in line." We had been holding them so long that they could not get to the soup kitchens to eat.

Right now over 300 people a day get rooms for three days. We are looking at a change of going on to seven days . . . soon . . . and because the turnover isn't as great, we'll give out 180 rooms and the line will move faster.

Also, the building the line forms by is going under construction and we will have to move the line. And we will be holding a public meeting to determine where the line will be moved to.

There had been talk of merging the General Assistance and homeless programs. Do you see that happening? And what would happen to people who can't or won't participate in an ID prngram?

We don't foresee a merger because the G.A. facility at 1440 Harrison is just packed but we are stuck with a 20 year lease on the building. It's a tense atmosphere over there. Now the I.D. system has been viewed as a punitive measure to reduce services . . . I view it as a ticket to services. To do case management . . . and this is one of the linchpins of what Mayor Agnos has always told me . . . you have to have some notion of who you are dealing with and what their problems are and then you can really figure out where the best places for people to go are. We are making an effort to identify as many folks who are on (City funded) G.A. who ought to be on (State funded) S.S.I. We doubled the staff and in six months they paid for themselves and more. And folks who were getting three hundred dollars a month in G.A. are getting six or seven hundred dollars in S.S.I.

What happens to people who can't or won't be able to comply with I.D. requirements . . . penple with warrants, mental patients, people with AIDS afraid nf the Dannemeyer measure (Prop. 102)?

I see the I.D. as being more like a Motor Vehicles thing. And our records are confidential. Most people who don't believe in I.D.s don't use the hotline system. We wouldn't have an I.D. system for the shelters.

The Prentice proposal would convert some homeless hotels from private for-profit to non-profit use. What would be the scenario under which this might happen?

At this point there is a consortium that is looking at the economic feasibility of doing this and they would like to come forward with a proposal to do four hotels. They have not yet specified the hotels, but I know they have had conversations with Charlie Patel and a couple of other owners. If they get the four hotels they are going to need occupancy from our clients to keep the hotels full. We would have a commitment to send folks to those hotels.

Do you foresee most homeless housing continuing to be and expand in the Tenderloin, Mission and South of Market or will other neighborhoods be asked to bear their share? Would the Department consider leasing flats or apartments as an alternate to hotels?

It depends on the facilities, where the hotels are and where the facilities are. We are looking at what is economically possible and the impetus for looking at non-profits is that I'm spending four million dollars a year on the hotels that is just going into private pockets. If we can capture those payments for non- profits to provide services, that makes economic sense to me. So I am looking at the economic viabilities of proposals.

Neighborhood resistance, such as that of Woodward Street to the Conard House facility, is always there and will neighborhoods have input as to the nature of new program housing? If you had a good deal on housing that was not in the system in a neighborhood withnut much program housing, how would this be handled?

We would involve the community. That's just the way we do business. One of the good things about the non-profits is if you are talking about people on SSI, not people from the mental or criminal justice systems, people who are on GA and looking for work they are people just like you and me. There's no disgrace in that. It's my belief that a lot of the neighbors will have been there at one time in their life. A lot of people have been on welfare at one time or another. Certain populations evoke visceral reactions. I've talked to the folks from Conard House and they feel things have been blown out of proportion.

Some nf the Woodward Street neighbors did not like the way that meetings were held. Would your department have different standards? And how would community leaders be identified? Would they be housing activists or just people living in the area.

These are business deals. We are referring people, we are not going to be the owners, we are just going to use (Woodward Street) as we would use any other hotel. It's got to be viable on its own merits. One thing that I see encouraging about the non-profit consortium is that you have major service providers getting together. On the matter of moving the line we are just going to circle the area and just say "come in and talk". Somebody is going to be unhappy, but we want to lay out options.



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HOMELESSNESS

- by Elizabeth Anello



Times of wrenching social change in America produced problems with housing the nation's people. Temporary or long-lasting homelessness, inadequate housing and population dislocations required special housing construction and regulation. One episode of major social disruption was the Great Depression leading into World War II . . . 1929-1939. The Depression left many homeless and destitute and the mobilization for war caused a "tremendous internal migration of war workers" who needed housing (Hoben). This massive geographic shift in the nation's population also caused significant family disruption. The federal government was moved to construct housing and to establish social and counseling services for the general population. It was a watershed era for housing and social services. The scale of human need was great and apparent.

The period of time from 1975 to the present, 1988, has been a time of radical social change, comparable to the depression/war era of mid-century. Women have moved steadily into the labor force and, increasingly, are heads of household. A national industrial economy dissolved as a global service economy materialized. The mechanization of agriculture left large pools of unnecessary workers. National resources drained out of the domestic economy. Monetary policies did not prevent inflation of the costs of basic needs. Again the nation faces a great need for housing for its dislocated and disenfranchised populations. Again, homelessness is companion to loss of work.

Housing deficiencies and demands now constitute a major stressor on both working and dependent groups in our society. *The San Francisco Examiner* recently reported that "each passing month brings clearer evidence of a growing housing crisis . . . the federal government must reestablish its historic role as full partner in the effort to revitalize housing . . . the nation's crisis no longer affects only the homeless and poor. It has spread to young working families who see home prices skyrocketing at a time when they cannot save a down payment because of ever-increasing rent, student loan debts and static incomes . . . the housing problems of the poor, however, are beyond solution by the market system alone and have fallen outside the focused attention of our society . . . many of the poor are unseen or unnoticed by the majority of Americans". (Anderson)

19th Century Origins of Housing Activism

Social reformers in American history defined housing problems, lobbied for housing reform legislation and provided leadership in the early experiments in government-owned housing. Social activists also met the need for special housing for single men and women. Often, this kind of housing was provided by charitable organizations at very low cost to the residents. There was recognition that the offspring of working and farm families needed low-cost accommodations in the growing urban centers as they set out to establish themselves in trade, service, vocation or profession. San Francisco, for example, hosted the first national conference on housing for women in 1929. By that year, housing had become a major national issue.

Settlement houses (neighborhood houses) were the places in which housing issues were studied, debated and promoted. Settlement houses sprang up throughout the 1880's as the industrial revolution blazed and cities grew. A Hull House worker, Robert Hunter, wrote the classic study of tenement conditions in 1901, in Chicago. Lawrence Veiller, a New York settlement worker, pioneered housing and zoning regulations to protect basic decent housing in the slums. Others experimented in limited dividend housing for the poor. By the 1920's, a burst of experimentation in housing had fueled enthusiasm. There seemed no limit to the possibilities of government-owned or subsidized dwellings. A tenement in Harlem, for example, the "Dunbar Apartments for Negroes", contained clubhouses, nurseries and playgrounds. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Housing Corporation was "cooperative in origin as well as in management." By 1929, however, these experiments faced serious difficulties in financing (Ford).

The Move to National Public Policy on Housing

Settlement women, especially, grasped the importance of housing development as essential to improvement of the quality of life for the poor. Mary McDowell, a settlement worker and neighborhood organizer, worked with the people "back of the yards" in Chicago's meat packing districts. She organized women, the homeless and the unemployed. Turning to housing in the 1920's, McDowell established one of the first Hous-

ing Commissions in the United States, the Chicago Housing Commission.

Mary Simkhovitch and Edith Wood, New York settlement workers, led the national movement for public housing in the 1920's. They believed that subsidized housing must be public so that it would benefit the poorest groups in society and not be coopted by those able to pay higher rents. Edith Wood had laid the conceptual groundwork for the analysis of the housing problem in the United States in 1919. She wrote that only the wealthiest third of the nation constituted a genuine market for private sector housing. The middle third of the population, she argued, would have to be assisted with subsidized housing and the poorest third would need government produced housing. She believed that housing should be a right and a community service in a democratic society that valued equality. Housing, she claimed, should be considered a basic service, like utilities, education and recreation. Edith Wood's analysis of housing problems in the United States has not been surpassed.

Mary Simkhovitch is best known for her Greenwich House in New York City, his settlement house generated many improvements in the quality of life for the lowest-income groups of that community, non-English-speaking immigrants. This "laboratory in social science" succeeded so well, as did many others, that its best programs were adopted by local governments. Public agencies and school districts began to develop after-school recreation programs, public open spaces and parks, daycare centers and local zoning laws, all experiments of the settlements. Simkhovitch remained loyal to neighborhood work but, increasingly, her attention turned to the national government as it became clear that the same social problems were found in all localities. Local solutions were valuable, but not sufficient. Her hope was that settlements would be "catalysts in the creation of community cohesion and indigenous leadership" (Sicherman). Her interventionist work in the New York immigrant neighborhood was an example for later community organizing and advocacy methods.

Another student of the settlement movement was Catherine Bauer. Bauer was the youngest of the powerful trio; Wood, Simkhovitch and Bauer, that led the National Public Housing Conference in 1931 and pushed through the Wagner-Steagall Bill, the landmark 1937 housing legislation which established government-produced and owned public housing for low-income people. She called for a coalition of "intellectuals, social workers, religious workers, consumers and organized labor (to remove rental housing from) the dictates of market forces." (Trattner). Bauer persevered with the public housing issue into the 1960's, a sympathetic, but persistent critic of the public housing system she had helped design. Sympathetic to its goals and purposes she was, nonetheless, disenchanted with how it was implemented. An advocate of community involvement, Bauer disliked rigid professionalism in social programs like public housing. "Casey" Bauer, a Berkeley professor during the last decades of her life, was the staunchest advocate and the clearest thinker on publicly-funded housing in the modern era.

The Commitment Betrayed

Edith Wood, Mary Simkhovitch and Catherine Bauer would probably be disappointed with the state of housing policy in the United States fifty years after they forged a monumental commitment to decent housing for Americans. For one, the demands of the war years drained the momentum out of the housing movement. The government deployed all resources for war-related housing. The commitment to housing for the poor weakened even before the ink was dry on the resolutions.

Secondly, high expectations for private enterprise thrived in the postwar years. The private sector came to dominate public policy in housing and maximized subsidies for itself. Social activists tried, but failed, to defeat the "rent certificate" form of housing assistance. They believed that it would not increase the supply of housing, would enrich private owners at the expense of low-income residents and would place inordinate demands for monitoring on local welfare institutions (Hoben). The policy of subsidizing the private sector in the hope that it would provide for the poor, the working and the homeless has dominated housing policy in the United States since the 1940's. Beyond the mobilization for war in the 1939-45 era, the federal government did not take serious responsibility for housing its population.

Conclusion

Approaching the 1990's, we face the consequences of leaving the provision of basic needs, including housing, to the private market. The March 29th Examiner article noted above ("the housing problems of the poor, however, are beyond solution by the market system alone", quoting New York Senator Alphonse D'Amato) echoes Edith Wood's 1919 analysis that only the wealthiest third of the nation constitutes a genuine market for private sector housing. With regard to housing concerns, we have come full circle in the century, 1890-1990.

One explanation for the failure to maintain a strong housing agenda at the national level is that social activists have accepted a marginal role in the development of national policy in the United States since World War II. And with the declared but debatable failure of the War on Poverty of the 1960's, social activists have taken an apologetic stance, deferring to economists in this era of the glory of private profit.

The settlement leaders, men and women of the industrial era a hundred years ago, would feel comfortable in San Francisco today. Here we have the tenements and slums they knew so well. Our residential hotels house poor English-speaking and non-English-speaking families in the Tenderloin and the Mission District in single rooms with no cooking facilities, no refrigeration, often no running water, no heat and abundant live pest infestation. Here we have the down and outs in homeless shelters. These shelters are not the almshouses of the 19th century, which were public hospitals, nor are they the depression flophouses, which were group accommodations that charged a few cents to men who worked at casual labor, and intruded little on the privacy of guests. The shelters of the 1980's are frightening inventions, with few exceptions. Within them, the destitute and the disabled are hidden from public view effectively. Shelter dwellers also have "fallen outside the focused attention of our society". They are unseen and unnoticed. It will be a great challenge for social activists of the 1990's to transform the quality of shelter for the poorest among us.

Elizabeth Anello is one of the co-founders of the North Mission Association and Co-Director of Social Work for Health Care for the Homeless in San Francisco.



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MESSAGE FROM NICARAGUA

Michael Page

Balance is something that I've been striving for. Things were just getting too bent out of shape. My hectic life in the Mission District of San Francisco of the United States was too . . . I don't know if I even have the conclusive term . . . too urban, urban technological, urban white impersonal, on guard on cement, giving out and giving up to causes that are at best inconsequential and, at their lowest, bordering on corrupt and vile. My decision to leave, to come to Nicaragua and all the sacrifices to do this, to drive this far, work voluntarily for the Sandinista Government and endure the scarcity and hardships of the infancy period of the Revolution have all been without regret. As one Internationalista said in an article (one of those hundreds of "report-back" style numbers from lefty-types after being enchanted by Nicaragua) "The basic point is that there's no sacrifice involved. I don't feel I'm sacrificing anything."

But if you ask any Nicaraguan - poor or slightly-better-off, military doctor, teacher or scientist, their sacrifice is substantial. Since I've been here, the Sandinistas have implemented strict cuts and reorganizations in Federal programs in an effort to economize and water down rising bureaucracy. I have seen the dollar rise from an unrealistically low rate of exchange to a rate comparable to other Central American countries. I had a lesson in economics every time I read the newspaper and saw prices of produced goods and imported goods skyrocket while wages stayed steady. Gas, bread, milk, machinery as well as corn and soap became too expensive for some working people. Now, 3 months after the most recent adjustment, I hear one secretary explain "One pound of beans - that's \$200 (corobas). One pound of rice, \$160 - 4 tortillas, \$40. That's \$400, no counting oil, salt, sugar and I make under \$4,000 in a month!" She suffers from nervous condition and misses work. But this is not the failure of Revolutions or of People's Power as the reactionaries would try to convince the visitor. (Often, the visitors know too much about Nicaragua's history and that of the "Third World" to pay too much mind to these opportunists.) But hunger has an ugly voice and you hear it in the complaints of the fat black market women; merchants, resellers. But I roll over in the hammock and listen with my other ear to the thousands of reassuring slogans, the sensitive soundtrack under evocative images of happy kids, solid communities, production despite hardship. One Indian looking ex-migrant farmer, ex-volunteer in the army friend was saying to me last night "The Government doesn't do anything to hurt the people. It's like they have to manage a huge industry but it's bigger, it's the whole country."

I like our discussions that revolve around defense and love and the folklore of the campo, the man-customs of my folk and his folk and the just plain conversations for which the Nicaraguans have quite the gift.

It's hard to say if there are more people who want to leave all their problems behind for some abstract land-of-plenty good some place else or more people who want to draw Sandino on every wall in Latin America, who attend classes and neighborhood defense meetings, sunrise ceremonies in honor of the heroes and martyrs who continue on in their demonstrated strength to develop their poor little campesino home.

But it is time to talk of specifics, where we put our minds and our hands because just to look on and not to pick up a tool, a pen, a weapon perhaps ain't right - it's not in balance. The voice of the hunger of the noble freeman is a supreme motivator, I've found. They don't use the term "burn out" and I don't even feel it as I had so often giving my all in San Francisco. I recognize the power of the balance achieved in our inter-dependancy. I have something you can use and vice versa. We make each other happy. I see this as an alternative to the forces that are, at this moment, trying to destabilize our America united of USA, they work even inside the citizen. Everyone's opinions, everyone's tastes, possessions, lack of outer vision, people's false independence (in a nation dependant on consuming the riches of others) are our individual borderlines. All the private lies, the fears of "opening up" and "letting go". These are our body casts that keep us upstanding American citizens in a spaced out empire.

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So I achieve balance in my exchange as a teacher - sharing my education in a country where teachers are often volunteer high school students or underpaid professionals supplemented by monthly rations of rice, beans and sugar given by the government. The city where I live (Managua) is like a post-revolutionary campgrounds - people on the move, living in temporary style little houses and out of doors or just-inside walls with few separations. The city has been described as part tropical forest or as "the ranch" because of its abundance of animals, trees and open spaces. I think in ten years we will still be able to see this harmony of nature and urban spaces.

I think it is part of the Nicaraguan identity. There are foxes and iguanas - both supposedly endangered species - and grogs and flocks of parrots. I have always had to fight in San Francisco for a little piece of ground to be spared from the ravenous underdeveloped (mentally) developers. Here, the underdevelopment of the physical structure of the urban environment makes possible 27 community gardens - and hundreds of smaller family plots and innumerable fruit and shade trees, parks, lagoons and quiet dark and peaceful places.

Then I jolt awake, up in my hammock, sweating. I've gotten used to the heat but that dream - Whew! it was only a dream. I dreamed I was in an always cold gray city in a pit of a foundation of a burnt out - burned down building. There were hundreds of people around and I felt alone. How did I get there? I was just in Nicaragua - land of volcanoes. I only thought to travel and suddenly I was there and I was trapped, trapped with an urge for something sweet that won't go away and with an urge to get high and dream. But it was only a dream. A nightmare, perhaps? I'm still here and I won't make any foolish decisions that I can't go back on.

In the next article I will talk about work, probably - next to food and partying - the most relevant subject for Nicaragua. Most specifically, I need to make my being here contribute to the life and the direction of these people at war in the toddler stage of their visionary process. Specifically my work is as an educator and a collaborator on a couple of projects in urban agriculture and in self-health and alternative medicine and as a communicator to help re-balance the forces that our government and the governments before have upset.

Lying back in the hammock, content to be here, oblivious to the mosquitoes, I hear some ever present music and the calls of the vendors in the market place. I've slowed down and I can learn and experience more and give more and feel together,

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"It is time that the citizens should realize the full benefits of this enormous resource of energy which we own" (S.F. Grand Jury)

TWO REASONS TO SAY 'NO' TO PG&E - - - AND 'YES!' TO THE RAKER ACT!

FIRST THE BAD NEWS:

1: We're getting robbed.

We, the People of San Francisco, financed the Hetch-Hetchy dam. It produces 2 billion kwh/year. But **not one watt** goes to **us** - - the S.F. residents and businesses whose taxes paid for it.

40% of it goes to government uses. 60% is declared "excess", and sold, at bargain rates, **outside** San Francisco. We sell it for less than 4¢ per kwh, while buying from PG&E at 9¢ per kwh.

The Supervisors' Budget Analyst estimates we're losing about **\$53 million** a year, by selling 'excess' Hetchy electricity for less than half its actual value.

We pay PG&E another **\$13 million** a year for "firming" (insuring) the deal - - agreeing to supply replacement 'excess' in case the reservoir runs dry.

We're losing another **\$7 million** a year by paying PG&E for transporting - - "wheeling" - - our electricity for us, instead of doing it ourselves.

It adds up to about **\$73 million** a year. The current contracts last over **27** years. Total giveaway: **2 BILLION DOLLARS**.

PG&E gets the biggest piece of the pie. So they invest in political "donations" - - as much as a **million dollars** a year. That can buy a lot of politicians (only Hongisto and Britt voted 'No'). And it can buy a lot of political power - - endorsements, club memberships, news coverage, editorials, advertising.

It can even buy elections.

HOW A 'PROFIT' CAN EQUAL A LOSS:

\$28 million/yr = the profit City Hall brags that we now make by selling "excess" power (after meeting government needs).

\$81 million/yr = the average profit we **could** make, according to official calculations of Supervisors' Budget Analyst Harvey Rose.
\$53 million/yr (over a million dollars a week) = Rose's estimate of giveaway in average years.
\$36 million/yr in very dry years.
\$97 million/yr in very wet years.

MONEY WE GIVE PG&E FOR NO GOOD REASON:

\$13 million/yr = what we pay PG&E for "firming" (insurance that we'll always have "excess" power).
\$0 = what we **should** be paying PG&E for insuring, contracts that we'd be better off without.

\$7 million/yr = what we pay PG&E for "wheeling" which we could do ourselves at little cost.

\$0 = what we would pay PG&E for "wheeling" if we did our own transporting/distributing.

\$20 million/yr = total direct giveaway to PG&E.

A TWO BILLION DOLLAR GIVEAWAY:

\$53 million/yr lost selling 'excess' to others, cheap, instead of to ourselves, under-pricing PG&E.
\$13 million/yr to PG&E for "firming".
\$7 million/yr to PG&E for "wheeling".

\$73 MILLION/yr. TOTAL ANNUAL GIVEAWAY
x 27.5 year life-time of current contracts

TWO BILLION DOLLARS TOTAL GIVEAWAY
(= about \$10,000/family; almost \$3000/person)

WHERE THE PROFIT COMES FROM:

1¢/kwh = actual cost of Hetchy power, including producing & distributing.
3.5¢/kwh = what Modesto & Turlock pay us for over a billion kwh a year of "excess" power.
4.5¢/kwh = what airport tenants pay us for their 7% of total output.

9¢/kwh = what electricity is worth. (that's what San Franciscans pay PG&E)

WHERE THE POWER GOES:

40% of Hetchy power goes to government, including S.F., Modesto, Turlock, Riverbank.
60% is declared "excess" and sold, cheap.
53% goes to Modesto/Turlock homes, businesses.
7% goes to S.F. airport commercial tenants.

0% goes to S.F. taxpayers, homes, businesses.

NOW THE GOOD NEWS:

2: We don't have to take it.

We, the People of San Francisco, have a **right** to Hetch-Hetchy power.

In 1908, we voted to finance the dam.
In 1988, we can vote to **stop** financing PG&E.

In 1913, Congress passed the **RAKER Act**, letting the city flood federal land, provided that the water and electricity be **"FOR THE USE OF ITS PEOPLE"** - - who would be funding the project - - rather than go to any private profit.

In 1940, the U.S. SUPREME COURT ruled that Raker requires the city to **"SUPPLY ITS OWN INHABITANTS FIRST"**.

In 1973, the S.F. GRAND JURY agreed: the Raker Act requires that cheap power be **"SOLD BY THE CITY DIRECTLY TO ITS INHABITANTS"**.

The 1988 Grand Jury renewed that call.

The **Hetch-Hetchy Power Rights** initiative - - Prop. "Z" on the Nov. 1988 S.F. ballot - - instructs the Supervisors to terminate contracts violating the Raker Act, and **"TO ARRANGE FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR RIGHT TO HETCH-HETCHY POWER"**.

Illegal contracts are **unenforceable**. The Raker Act takes precedence over any contracts that violate it.

There are **2 big** reasons to vote Yes! on "Z".
Two billion reasons.

HETCH-HETCHY: A HISTORY

1913. Congress Passes **RAKER Act** allowing S.F. to dam Hetch-Hetchy, provided that S.F. **"SHALL DEVELOP AND USE HYDROELECTRIC POWER FOR THE USE OF ITS PEOPLE"**.

1923. Secty. of Interior declares S.F. is violating Raker by selling Hetchy power to PG&E.

1925. New contracts negotiated with distribution ("wheeling") by PG&E instead of sale to PG&E.

1934. Secty. of Interior declares "wheeling" also violates Raker; sues for enforcement.

1940. After appeals, U.S. SUPREME COURT rules: **"CONGRESS CLEARLY INTENDED TO REQUIRE ... SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF HETCH HETCHY POWER EXCLUSIVELY BY SAN FRANCISCO AND MUNICIPAL AGENCIES DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS, IN THE BELIEF THAT CONSUMERS WOULD THUS BE AFFORDED POWER AT CHEAP RATES, IN COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE POWER COMPANIES, PARTICULARLY PG&E"**.

1941. WWII temporary solution - Hetchy power goes to defense plant.

1946. New contracts, including Modesto/Turlock; Truman's Secty. of Interior doesn't object.

1973. S.F. GRAND JURY says contracts still illegal "contrary to the terms of Sect. 6" of Raker Act, requiring that power **"BE SOLD BY THE CITY DIRECTLY TO ITS INHABITANTS"**.

1977. Starbuck (private citizen) lawsuit loses; court rules only government can sue under Raker Act.

1985. Feinstein signs new (temporary) contracts.

1988. City Hall signs final contracts even after Budget Analyst Rose says **"NOT RECOMMENDED"**.

1988. Interior Secty. HOOEL proposes new suit to enforce Raker, re-possess Hetchy, tear down dam. Congress refuses funds for feasibility study.

1988. S.F. GRAND JURY renews 1973 Grand Jury call that Hetchy power "be sold by the City directly to its inhabitants" - - **"AT A LOWER COST THAN THEY PRESENTLY PAY"** (to PG&E).

1988. San Franciscans vote on Proposition "Z" - - the **HETCH-HETCHY POWER RIGHTS** initiative.

- **TUESDAY, NOV. 8th**

- - **HETCH - HETCHY POWER RIGHTS INITIATIVE**

3004 16th St., #304, SF. 94103; 863-8263

- - **PROPOSITION 'Z'** -

ENCUENTRO DEL CANTO POPULAR



by Nick Hornsfelt

The seventh annual New Song Festival (Encuentro del Canto Popular) is scheduled for October 7-9, 7:30 p.m. at the York Theatre, 2789 24th Street. Encuentro del Canto Popular is a project of Accion Latina, a non-profit cultural/educational organization that also publishes El Tecolote newspaper.

Since its inception in 1981, Encuentro del Canto Popular has grown from a two-day festival attracting approximately 600, to a three-day event drawing upwards of 1,800 people sharing an appreciation of Latin American folk music.

As Hilda Ayala of the Encuentro planning committee puts it "From the Andes to Puerto Rico to Nicaragua to Delano, the New Song has become a way of both preserving indigenous folk musical styles and of articulating the changing social realities of people."

The 100 or so artists who have participated in the past six years cover a wide spectrum of folk style as well as nationalities, including Andres Jimenez of Puerto Rico, Ismael Duran and Isabel Aldunate of Chile, Oscar Chavez, Amparo Ochoa, and Grupo Mez Me of Mexico and Cacho Duvañed and Carlos Porcel Nahuel of Argentina.

The New Song Movement began in Chile as apart of the cultural activities of the Marxist-elected government of Salvador Allende. It was quickly spread throughout Latin America via the continued influence of singer-composer-poets Victor Jara and Violeta Parra.

Among the stars appearing at this year's festival will be Tania Libertad of Peru. Libertad, an acoustical guitarist-singer making her premiere West Coast appearance, has recorded 20 albums and has toured Europe, Central and South America, Mexico and the East Coast of the United States as one of the leading female vocalists of the New Song. Also appearing will be Roy Brown, one of the leading pioneers of the New Song in Puerto Rico. In the past 15 years Brown has participated in festivals in Mexico, South America, Spain, Cuba, East Berlin and the Dominican Republic and has eight albums to his credit.

Representing the United States is Charlie King, whom *Billboard Magazine* has proclaimed the natural successor to Pete Seeger. King is a founder of the Peoples

Music Network and one of the leading voices of U.S. New Song.

Also participating in "Encuentro '88" will be harpist Javier Montoya from San Francisco, Dr. Loco's Corrido Boogie Band from Menlo Park, Rafael Manriquez and Group from Berkeley, Altamira from San Francisco, Agustín Lira & Teatro de la Tierra from Fresno, and Inkuyo from San Francisco just to mention a few.

Free to the public is a Saturday afternoon children's program from 1-3 PM. The program will be a mini-concert with performers leading children in songs and demonstrating musical techniques on various acoustical instruments.

Evening admission to "Encuentro '88" is \$10 per night at the door, or \$24 for the series. Group rates are \$8 per person per night for a group of 10 or more. Tickets can be purchased at El Tecolote, 3240 21st Street, The Book Center, 518 Valencia Street, Bookworks, 2848 Mission Street, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia Street, La Galeria de la Raza Studio 24, 2851 24th Street and La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley.

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TENANT TIMES

VOL IX, NO. 2

Newsletter of the San Francisco Tenants Union

FALL, 1988

Yes on U For Vacancy Rent Control

Why We Need U

The current rent control law passed in 1979 places a 4% to 7% limit on annual rent increases. But there's a loophole for evasion of the City's law: when housing units become vacant, there is *no limit* on rent increases!

This promotes re-sale speculation, which undeniably has fueled runaway inflation in housing. Vacant dwellings are now re-rented at "whatever the market will bear." This creates an "if you don't like it—move" landlord/tenant relationship, and this invites evictions.

Satisfied, longterm tenants thus become a financial liability to their landlords. High turnover, short-term tenancies are the most profitable.

More than two-thirds of San Franciscans rent their homes. Of these, more than 70% could not afford to pay rent at "market rate" on their own apartments. Most have been effectively priced out of possible home ownership.

What U Will Do

- Stabilize rents by extending the current 4% to 7% limit on rent increases to vacant units.
- Encourage measured, steady growth in our local housing market. Quick-money property speculation will be lessened and skyrocketing rents slowed.
- Re-establish stability in our homes and neighborhoods, at the same time rewarding good landlords and taking big-profit incentive out of evictions.

What Opponents Say

"The people who cannot afford San Francisco rents should seek another place to rest their heads!"

—Richard Bodisco, Bodisco Realtors
Continued Page 3

What You Can Do

by Brian Doohan

Anti-renter Supervisor Bill Maher was in a good mood at the free Opera in the Park last month, explaining that there was no way Proposition U could win. "This ballot will be so long that only three people in the City will ever get all the way down to Prop. U and they'll be Quentin Kopp voters," he said.

That may be a slight exaggeration, but the fact is clear that lower and middle income renters are less likely to turn out to vote and those who do are more likely to vote for President and maybe Senator and all by the wayside somewhere in the swamp of California bond issues, technical adjustments and confusing insurance-attorney squabbles. A third to as much as half the voters may never get to Prop. U and other important measures such as the Missouri or the bigoted Dannemeyer AIDS initiatives. And these, unfortunately, are voters whose economic conditions are such that most would support Vacancy Rent Control.

What's a poor renter to do?

The San Francisco Tenants' Union and the Vacancy Rent Control Campaign have adopted the following precinct/neighborhood strategy as necessary for the passage of Proposition U and the permanent institution of San Francisco renters as a political force in proportion to their status as two-thirds of the city's population.

Continued on Page 3



Photo by Naima Weiss

It's Time for Vacancy Control

by Brian Doohan

Proposition U, the Vacancy Rent Control Ordinance is, plainly speaking, a referendum on the people of the City and County of San Francisco. The usual scenario of elections is that candidates and... in the nature of initiatives... issues are placed before voters for decision. Real estate speculation in the City has turned this logic on its head. On November 8th the people, guided by the competing clamor of their own self interest versus all the lies and endorsements politicians money can buy will vote on their own survival. It is the rather surrealistic job of the leadership and membership of the Tenants' Union to guide the City's two-thirds renter majority away from the beguiling option of electoral suicide.

How has this situation come to pass? A study of the last ten years of San Francisco's rent politics is in order.

Until the 1970s, Bay Area housing costs and rents were equal to or behind those of the United States as a whole, primarily due to direct market factors such as the availability of cheap labor and lumber and climate-directed energy costs... favorable in relation to the East and Midwest.

In the mid-1970s this situation began to change. On the national front, the emergence of the "Pacific Rim" cult... concurrent with the relative decline of manufacturing, maritime and Port employment vis a vis more lucrative FIRE (finance, insurance and real estate) economics in San Francisco occasioned the situation whereby those who worked with their hands and created wealth could be outbid for housing by those who worked by their wits, creating only rules and paper.

The linchpin of this transformation (documented by scholars such as Chester Hartman and William Wirt) was the assassination of George Moscone, whose base was in the liberal Democratic and trade union movement (and implied at least a grudging tolerance of "marginal" elements... artists, inventors, cosmopolitans and a wide range of social, political and charitable activists whose willingness to accept low wages for part-time employment while they pursue their ideals has been identified by no less an authority than the Chamber of Com-

merce as substantially contributing to the perception of San Francisco as a good place to do business in) and his replacement by Dianne Feinstein, whose advisers were and continue to be drawn from the ranks of the FIREmen and women.

Following the defeat of two rent-related initiatives in the 1970s, the rapidly escalating cost of rental housing prompted then-Supervisor Quentin Kopp to introduce a Vacancy Rent Control ordinance before the Supervisors which measure, containing a 14% maximum increase, was similar to current legislation proposed by Sup. Harry Britt. This law passed the board but was vetoed by Mayor Feinstein and, because the City Attorney ruled that while Feinstein's ownership of a hotel did not constitute conflict of interest because she had already evicted its low-income senior tenants to convert to more profitable tourist use, the properties owned by Sup. Richard Hongisto did, the 7-3 vote to overturn the veto failed. (Under the Charter, abstention counts

Continued on Page 4

The "new" Rent Board

by Mike Harney

Over the summer, Mayor Art Agnos swore in ten appointments to the SF Rent Board thus creating a new "Agnos" board by filling all the seats with his picks, although four turn out to be retreads from the old Feinstein board. A comparatively low profile City Commission — but with real power — the Residential Rent Stabilization Board interprets city rent law and settles disputes between landlords and tenants. It is comprised of four landlords, four tenants, and two "neutral" members — usually homeowners who do not own rental property — who are appointed by the Mayor and can be removed by the Mayor. And, in fact, the Mayor did ask all the members of the previous Feinstein board

Continued on Page 2

Supe Candidates and Prop U

by Michael Harney
Chair, SFTU Legislative Committee

Of the numerous candidates for Supervisor this year, a few stand out, (and only a very, very little).

Harry Britt

A long time friend of renters on the Board, Harry will be out in 1989 if Proposition O passes (see elsewhere in this issue). He promises to continue a strong tenant advocacy position is re-elected. He now indicates that his Vacancy Control bill is "weak" and would perhaps consider lowering the allowed 14 percent increase on re-renting that is now in the present draft. He has taken no position on Proposition U, but apparently would be "very happy" if it passed. RECOMMENDED BY THE SFTU LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

Angela Alioto

Daughter of the former Mayor, attorney Alioto has changed her position on Vacancy Control legislation from opposition to support for some version of it. She seems much less enthusiastic about a Vacancy Control initiative.

Willie Kennedy

Kennedy says she will continue to support Vacncy Control if re-elected to the Board. No known position on Proposition U.

Jim Gonzales

Since he has not served two terms on the Board, (he was appointed by Feinstein) he can run again if Proposition O passes. Gonzales was a renter's friend on housing discrimination legislation lastyear, but continues to say he wants more convincing information to study before he can switch to support Vacancy Control. Perhaps statistics showing non-support from renters in November 88 will be just the numbers Jim needs.

Chuck Lantz

A new face in the crowd running for Supervisor, Lantz carries the endorsement of Tenant Rent Board Commissioner Jake McGoldrick who says that

"Lantz has consistently supported neighborhood conservation, vacancy control and efforts to keep our housing affordable." I would personally recommend that voters consider Lantz.

Pat Norman

Pat seems a strong supporter of renters' issues, and has actually and openly come out in support of Proposition U, Vacancy Control. She lacks big bucks and may lose again, but can run again in 1989 if Proposition O passes. RECOMMENDED BY THE SFTU LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

Carol Ruth Silver

Carol has supported tenant rights and Vacancy Control in the past, but since acquiring rental property and thus a conflict of interest, she cannot vote for Vacancy Control or other issues of interest to us — hence she is worse than useless on the Board.

Tom Hsieh

Incumbent Hsieh, "just say Shay" (just say no!), was appointed by Feinstein and true to his patron he is clearly opposed to Vacancy Control. We should be just as clearly opposed to Hsieh.

Terrance Hallinan

Possessor of the name of an old progressive SF family, attorney Hallinan promises to rid himself of all real estate interests that might preclude him from voting on renters interests. He supports some version of Vacancy Control, but opposes the initiative route because of its "inflexibility."

I personally recommend that Candidates Lantz, Alioto, Kennedy and Hallinan (along with Britt and Norman) be considered very seriously by all interested in affordable housing in SF; additionally, I would recommend looking closely at "non-mainstream/protest" Candidates: Joe Ryan, Stephanie Hedgecoke, and Gina Graziano — who have also pledged their support for Vacancy Control and Renters Rights.



Tim Carrico

Rent Board

Continued from Page 1

to resign, they all finally did and with the portentous result below.

Executive Director

The day to day direction of the Rent Board is in the hands of the Director, Hearing Officers and staff. The genial and politically astute Director, Ricardo Hernandez, has gone from a Feinstein loyalist to an Agnos loyalist and continues on. In the past, Hernandez attempted to give tenants an equal shake at the rent Board in the face of a pro-landlord Mayor and Commission. Now with a new Mayor and Commission and a mandate for Tenants Rights, Hernandez faces the challenge of keeping a Rent Board in operation with a miniscule budget, and long run demands for change. The proposed revision of the Rent Board Rules and Regulations will be the first big test in the Age of Agnos.

The Rent Board Rules

The poor little old Rent Board struggles on in the shadow of big, well publicized sisters like the Planning Commission, but it regulates a residential rental industry in San Francisco that collects well over a billion dollars in rent each year. The Rent Board has power to set its own Rules and Regulations — which sounds exceedingly dull — but may mean thousands to individual renters, as these Rules interpret and explain just what the hell the Rent Law really means in practice! There are now general proposals floating about to change the Rules of the Rent Board in such areas as Capital Improvement passthroughs, evictions, roommates, and beyond. Stay tuned...

TENANTS COMMISSIONERS

Your tenant representatives are now Richmond community activist Jake McGoldrick, attorney Polly Marshall, attorney Vivian Hammill, and tenants rights worker Denice Stephenson.

A new Tenant Commissioner, Jake McGoldrick, 41 teaches at Presentation High School in the city. He is president of the Richmond Community Association, and active in the fight against the demolition of single family homes. (McGoldrick lives in a rented single family house.)

Tenant Commissioner Polly Marshall, 31, has served on the Rent Board since 1984 when she was first appointed by Dianne Feinstein. She was president in 1987 and vice president in 1986. She is an attorney with the firm of Goldfarb and Lipman, specializing in non-profit affordable housing finance and development. She was one of the founding members of the Affordable Housing Alliance.

Vivian Hammill, 33, an alternate Tenant Commissioner, is a partner in the law offices of Hammill and Wolf. She co-authored "Sexual orientation and the Law", and is on the litigation ommittee for the Lesbian Rights Project and National Gay Rights Advocates.

Denice Stephenson, an alternate Tenant Commissioner, is the new Executive Director of the Old St. Mary's Housing Committee.

"NEUTRAL" COMMISSIONER

Ruth Astle, a "neutral" Commissioner, has been on the Rent Board since last year and is an Administrative Law Judge for the State of California. She is vice president of the Board. The alternate "neutral" Commissioner is Joel Lipski, who is new to the Rent Board.

LANDLORDS

Landlord Tim Carrico, 39, has served on the Rent

Continued on Page 3

Letters

Dear Editor,

I will not be renewing my membership as I now live in Sparks, Nevada.

I would like to thank all of you and your organization for the wonderful advice I received. Yet, I was evicted last September after living there 28 years. To this day he (the landlord) has not moved in as he stated he would in his letter, and — yes — I am suing him.

Sincerely,

Bernice Cunningham

Dear Editor,

Renters should strongly oppose the Barbagela Recall of the Board of Supervisors, Proposition O. It is a direct attack on Tenants Rights in San Francisco.

Proposition O removes from office all supervisors who have ever supported strong rent control. It removes all the women supervisors, both black supervisors, and the only gay. Vacancy control, demolition restrictions, housing conversion prohibitions, and affordable housing construction are all imperiled.

While housing advocates are disappointed by the actions of certain supervisors, renters must not let the sins of a few affect their overall best interests. Carol Ruth Silver was "legally bribed" by elements of the Board of Realtors, who gave her a sweetheart deal on a Mission district apartment building and blocked vacancy control legislation in 1988. Feinstein appointees Hsieh and Gonzales are firmly in the landlord camp, but they are conveniently omitted by the Barbagelata Recall.

However, incumbent supervisors Britt and Kennedy, along with Walker, Ward and Nelder, are long-time supporters of renters rights. We must not throw out the baby with the bathwater. The election of strong challengers Hallinan, Alioto and Norman would ensure a pro-tenant majority on the Board to work in concert, not obstruction, with Mayor Agnos.

Recalling the current Board, and electing all new supervisors under the current city-wide representation system, would allow the Board of Realtors and the Chamber of Commerce to dominate City Hall. Renters must fight Prop O to save their homes!

David Brigode

Co-Chair,

SF Housing and Tenants Council

Tenant Times is published by the San Francisco Tenants Union, 558 Capp Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Contributors to this issue included Brian Doohan, Ted Gullicksen, Michael Harney, Jim Lang, Roger Levin, and Naima Weiss.

CALENDAR

UPCOMING TENANT UNION MEETINGS

BUSINESS MEETING—October 4, 6:00 pm, 558 Capp Street

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE—October 19, 7:30 pm, 558 Capp Street

BUSINESS MEETING—October 18, 6:00 pm, 558 Capp Street

Housing Props on Ballot

PROPOSITION 84

This is the *Roberti Housing and Homeless Bond Act*. It will authorize \$300 million in general obligation bond financing to go for a variety of housing programs for the homeless, the elderly, the disabled, and young families. As is fitting, there appears to be no serious opposition to this proposition. As you may remember, a companion Housing Bond measure, Proposition 77, appeared on the June ballot and passed in a landslide while a *Highway Bond* issue was being narrowly defeated! (San Francisco County had the highest percentage of Yes votes for Proposition 77; way-to-go Frisco!) I can safely say that Proposition 84 and 95 (below) is the kind of issue that the Tenants Union almost automatically supports, as all tenants should. **RECOMMENDED BY SFTU LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: YES ON 84 AND 95.**

PROPOSITION 95

This is the *Hunger and Homeless Act* sponsored by Board of Equalization member Conway Collis. This measure provides for fines against slumlords and restaurants for health code violations and uses the penalties collected to fund emergency services for the homeless and hungry. **RECOMMENDED BY SFTU LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

VACANCY CONTROL CAMPAIGN
41 VAN NESS AVENUE
863-0525

PROPOSITION 106

This would limit "contingency" fees collected by lawyers in liability suits including those against landlords. Many tenant attorneys feel that this measure would tend to limit a typical tenant attorney's willingness to take cases on an initial free basis, hoping for the eventual, but not certain, "contingency" fee extracted from the final settlement.

CITY PROPOSITIONS

The biggest and hottest SF ballot Proposition is — of course — Proposition U, the Vacancy Rent Control initiative (see elsewhere in this issue). Also of possible interest to renters would be Proposition O, the Barbagelata two-term-limit/supervisor recall measure. As tempting as it is for renters to cheer the removal of the same old faces on the Board of Supervisors (the majority of whom are now opposed to real rent control), we must be careful with this Proposition. Because of the way it is written, nine of the existing Supervisors could not run in 1989 for election, thus effectively recalling them. And who are the removed Supervisors? All of the blacks, all of the women, the only gay and *all of the strong advocates for real rent control, ie Vacancy Control*, now on the Board. Could it be that reactionary realtor and former Supervisor John Barbagelata has an un-nice agenda here? **RECOMMENDED BY SFTU LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: YES ON U; NO ON O.**

Yes on U For Vacancy Rent Control

continued

"To anyone listening to the landlords, it should be clear that the fight against Vacancy Control has resulted in a **new landlord lobby**, which, *after this November's election will next turn its attention to the Rent Control Ordinance.*"

—Joe Bravo, President, Apartment House Association

"All you need is five old grannies thrown out on the street three weeks before the election and you're dead. That is something you have to remind yourself of particularly if it [vacancy rent control] gets to the ballot."

—Bill Maher, Board of Supervisors

Close the Loophole!

While the real estate lobby spends over one million dollars of OUR rent money to attack Proposition U, we will wage a traditional grassroots campaign, talking with our neighbors, friends and co-workers. We need your help Now!

How You Can Help U Win

- Distribute literature in your neighborhood
- Put up signs
- Fold, staple, stuff, seal envelopes in the office
- Contact voters by phone
- Call your favorite radio and TV stations and tell them you want to hear public debates on the subject of vacancy rent control
- Write letters to the editors of your favorite papers in favor of Proposition U
- Call the Supervisors and the Mayor and tell them to take a stand in favor of Proposition U

SFTU LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee of the San Francisco Tenants Union is a Political Education and Action Committee. It does research, recommends positions on legislative matters, and recommends electoral endorsements. It helps represent you down at City Hall and up in Sacramento. Generally, only the general membership of the Tenants Union can make endorsements in the official name of the SF Tenants Union and the Legislative Committee can make recommendations in its own name.

Keep informed! Help make some laws yourself! Join the SFTU Legislative Committee. To get on the mailing list and receive the periodic LEGI-FLASH, return the coupon below and leave your name at 282-6622. The next meeting is October 19 at 7:30at 558 Capp — All SFTU members are invited!

JOIN THE SFTU

If you wish to join the TU, please fill out the form below and mail it in with a check or money order to the SFTU at 558 Capp Street, S.F., CA, 94110. When we receive your application, we'll send you the members-only phone number and our Handbook.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____

(W) _____

Zip Code: _____

Landlord's Name: _____

Units in Bldg.: _____

Bedrooms in Unit: _____

Current Rent: _____

- ☐ \$20 Low Income
- ☐ \$30 Regular
- ☐ \$40 Household
- ☐ \$60 Sustaining

I'd like to volunteer also:

- ☐ Tenant Counseling
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Legislative Work
- ☐ Organizing
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Office work
- ☐ Outreach
- ☐ Direct Action

Yes on Proposition U!

Continued from Page 1

Because there are no district elections, the City has been divided by zip code, each of which represents distinctive neighborhoods (94110 the Mission/Bernal Heights, 94117 the Haight and 94122 the Sunset). Low-renter neighborhoods such as the outer Sunset may be run directly by this zip-code "branch office" of the Vacancy Control campaign, higher-renter neighborhoods such as the Haight and Castro will be further broken down into regions of perhaps a dozen precincts, each overseen by a regional coordinator. The precinct is the grassroots level of the campaign and it is here that Tenant Union members must drop literature, make phone calls and raise money to pass Proposition U.

Enclosed in this issue's Tenant Times is a membership list identifying your precinct. We are asking that members contact and meet with other members in their precinct to elect a precinct captain or co-captains and report to either the neighborhood (zip code) contact where one exists, or to the campaign. Efforts will also be made by the campaign to organize precincts but, as you can see from the list below, there is a need for more regional coordinators in all neighborhoods and some neighborhood/zip codes are still without coordinators.

If you have some political or relevant volunteer or business experience and think you can take responsibility for either a whole neighborhood or a

region of ten to twelve precincts (chich commitment should take between five and ten hours weekly) please call the VCC office (863-0525) *NOW!* And if you can spare an hour or two a week to pass out literature, make phone calls and collect donations in your own precinct, you should also call the campaign office or your regional office below:

- 94102 North of Market Pl. Coal. 474-2164
- 94103 North Mission Association 626-2882
- 94104, 05, 08 VCC Campaign 863-0525
- 94107 VCC Campaign Office 863-0525
- 94109 VCC Campaign Office 863-0525
- 94110 St. Peter's Housing Com. 282-8877
- 94111 c/o VCC 863-0525
- 94112 VCC c/o Steve Whitson 337-7201
- 94114 c/o VCC 863-0525
- 94115 VCC Campaign Office 863-0525
- 94116 VCC Campaign Office 863-0525
- 94117 c/o VCC 863-0525
- 94118, 21 Richmond Dem. Club 221-2552
- 94122 c/o Kayse Wainwright 566-5680
- 94123 Marina Cove Tenants c/o VCC 863-0525
- 94124 VCC Campaign Office 863-0525
- 94127 VCC Campaign Office 863-0525
- 94131 VCC c/o Bill Schwald 826-4220
- 94132 c/o VCC Robert Pender 586-0164
- 94133 VCC Campaign Office 863-0525
- 94134 VCC c/o Steve Whitson 337-7201

Is It A New Rent Board?

Continued from Page 2

Board for about four years. How owns his own realty company (TCO on Haight Street) and belongs to the Board of Directors of the SF Board of Realtors. He is now president of the Rent Board.

Alternate landlord Commissioner, Ted Soulis, owns his own lending institution, Federal Financial Corporation. He is the exclusive agent for Gibraltar Savings & Loan.

Landlord Commissioner Mamie How, 40, is another reappointment, having served since 1986. She works for the SF Community College and is active in the Chinese American Democratic Club and Chinese for Affirmative Action.

Landlord alternate Commissioner William Villa is a Realtor-Associate with Saylor Properties, handling residential and commercial property throughout the

Bay Area. Like Carrico, Villa is a member of the SF Real Estate Board.

The new appointees replace landlord Ralph Payne (who apparently didn't want to resign), and tenants Richard Waller, Jim Morales (gone to Planning Commission), and Sandy Gartzman.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Communicate with your tenant Commissioners: Marshall, Hamill, Stephenson and McGoldrick, c/o SF Rent Board, 170 Fell, SF, CA 94102. Visit the weekly Board meetings — generally Tuesdays at 5:30 PM, State Building, Civic Center. Call 621-RENT to confirm time and place. Get on the SFTU Legislative Committee Mailing List to receive updates on the Rent Board and its machinations.

It's Time for VC

Continued

as a "no" vote . . . a fact that would become more important in l'affaire d'Silver—see below).

Subsequently, the exlsting rent ordinance was passed, which incorporates the Vacancy Decontrol Loophole. Things more or less rested there amidst inconsequentila insider maneuvering, until the election of Art Agnos as Mayor with the exhaustive participation of San Francisco tenants.

The landlords, undaunted, quickly co-opted this victory by bribing pro-tenant Supervisor Carol Silver with a cushy job at TRI realty and a cut-rate mortgage on an apartment in the North Mission. Like Hongisto, she claimed the conflict of interest exemption transforming a 5-4 Board majority for Vacancy Control into a 6-5 Board majority for Vacancy Control into a 6-5 passive majority against. "I don't want to end up as a bag lady," she said in defense of her sellout.

The Silver/TRI coup paralyzed Mayor Agnos as effectively as a spider's venom immobilizes a fly. No doubt he had seen the writing on the wall when the landlords boycotted the San Francisco Progress, driving that publication to the edge of ruin for the sin of standing up for Art Agnos and San Francisco renters. At any rate, he has distanced himself from Proposition U, uttering statements from time to time designed to attract the landlords' money without alienating his tenant supporters. But, whether or not Prop U succeeds, Agnos wil find . . . like sell-outs everywhere . . . that he will only succeed in driving the people who worked their butts off for him in 1987 out of his organization while earning nothing but contempt from landlord groups who are already pressing for repeal of the rent control ordinance as a litmus test for the 1991 election.

Thus, in the absence of Vacancy Control, those people who contribute the most to San Francisco's economy and culture have been consciously targeted to be run out of town while the polticians' whistle. As realtor Richard Bodisco states: "Those who cannot afford San Francisco rents should seek another place to rest their heads."

One way to assess the pros and cons of Prop U is to assess those who would lose the most if it passed. The January 1988 issue of San Francisco Magazine named the New York Helmsleys' Park Merced complex as the largest landlord holding . . . its tenant group, citing numerous instances of harassment, are firmly behind Proposition U.

The article (pg. 61) identifies other major landlords with more than 1,000 City units as Angelo Sangiacomo, TRI Realty, B&F (Norman Buckhart and Russ Flynn) Realty, DeWold Realty, Skyline Realty and Landmark Realty. Let's take a loot at these folk.

Sangiacomo is now known as "the father of rent control." His cruelty towards upper and upper middle class tenants in the Marina and Pacific Heights was so outrageous that anti-renter Supervisor (now City Attorney) Louise Renne was forced to come to the defense of her constituents.

Skyline, the creation of Frank Lembi who also owns Continental Savings and Loan has been the subject of many actions the most recent of which was a successful campaign on behalf of tenants of the Astoria Hotel who persevered through the sadistic campaign of this man who has made millions through the conversion of affordable housing for seniors into tourist hotels (like ex-Mayor Feinstein). He is credited with the concept of cluster political contributions . . . creating numerous dummy corporations to funnel political contributions far in excess of allowable limits to pro-landlord politicians like John Molinari.

TRI, Supervisor Silver's patron, is the creature of William Rosetti, who struck a deal with the Distrlct Attorney to escape the pokey in another condo conversion scheme, Norman Buckhart and Russ Flynn—who later spltt off to form B&F. Their political antics . . . refining the cluster scheme to the absurd maximum of donating twenty or thlrty times the allowable maximum to landlord stooges through campaign-law loopholes, dummy companies and compliant employees have earned them the derlsion of a broad spectrum running from tenant activists all the way to former Supervisor John Barbagelata. TRI and B&F picked up the lion's share of hanged slumlord Gunter Kaussen's properties due to some convenient hanky panky engineered by GK's executor, Peter Michael, a TRI employee.

A detailed history of the TRI octopus would make Pulitzer-class reading, but don't expect to see it in our daily media.

Landmark Realty is Dungeons and Dragons freak Robert Imhoff whose license to buy and sell rea estate was revoked because of his defrauding of investors who he roped into his empire through late night TV ads. His tenant abuses over the last ten years have been thoroughly documented in the Times and in community media from the Haight to the Mission to the Tenderloin.

That's the lineup of those who have the most to lose if Prop. U passes (DeWolf is relatively clean). They have hired Jack Davis, a former aide to Quentin Kopp who ran the infamous (unsuccessful) Cecil Williams cockroach campaign against growth controls and the "Darkness and Doom" Molinari fiasco. Already he has instituted a shrill campaign of lies and threats . . . landlords will abandon/burn their buildings, capital improvements exempted by law are really not, etc . . . that would be ludicrous in any rational debate but gains substance in the one-way monologue of big money/low ethics politics. On his left hand is Rich Nichols, a former aide to Sup. Willie Kennedy who is making the rounds of minority communities attacking not only Prop. U but the more moderate Britt proposal and the concept of rent controls without telling people that he quit working for Kennedy; thereby usurping the prestige of her office to his own ends.

And crouching behind it all is the pathetic shade of Quentin Kopp. After his vote on Vacancy Control, Rosetti, Lembi and their ilk yanked their money away from Q so Quickly that he was humiliated by Renne and Molinari in 1984. It's sad to see someone who presents such a surface image of independence crawling back to the people who kicked him aside for money to run against Art Agnos in 1991 . . . especially when Agnos has already endeared himself to the speculators to such an extent that Kopp's pilgrimage may gain him no more than bloody knees and a further wounded ego.

Given the sorry prospect of our elected officials doing anything to help renters, Proposition U is perhaps the last chance for **you** to remain here. A few brave individuals and organizations have stood up to just say No to the speculators . . . Supervisorial candidates Pat Norman, Julie Nix and Chuck Lantz, School Board members JoAnne Miller and Rosario Anaya, BART director Arlo Hale Smith . . . all major renter organizations and some senior organizations, unions and neighborhood groups and . . . perhaps most importantly . . . the Democratic Central Committee.

But as the power structure goes . . . we're on our own. If you have read this far, congratulations, and we direct your attention to the article WINNING VACANCY CONTROL. A full court press will be made through October to mobilize the Tenants' Union Into an effective political organization . . . not only for November, but to elect pro-renter candidates in the unwelcome, but likely, event of the passage of John Barbagelata's supervisorial recall which will mandate elections of all 11 Supervisors in 1981.

VACANCY CONTROL COMES TO CITY HALL

By James Lang

CITY HALL—SEPTEMBER 1 To some, an invisible banner stretches above the doors to City Hall: "Abandon all hope, all ye who enter here." Far from abandoning any hope, yet careful not to enter, supporters of Vacancy Control — Proposition U on your November ballot — gathered on the Polk Street steps at half-past noon.

A young Chinese woman swept up cigarette butts on those steps as pairs of VC people arrived. Some signs appeared: VACANCY CONTROL NOW, and another in Spanish. People of color as well as WASPier-looking ones took up positions. So did two old cops.

When twenty supporters had assembled, an old man took a purple halloon marked YES and tied it to his cane. Two others unfurled a brown banner in Spanish, while others held signs. All faced across the street toward those in a tent and the park who had not yet abandoned any hope. Most people entering or leaving the building paid little attention to the demonstration. Two supervisors did: Jim Gonzalves walked close to the group so as not to be accused of avoiding a confrontation, but he went unchallenged and unrecognized. Supervisor Nelder held a piece of paper up by her head as she walked by, but she too got quickly past.

More purple balloons arrived, all marked YES and attached to a shopping cart. The well-behaved demonstrators handed out no literature, and appeared to be waiting for something to happen.

Finally a video crew arrived. Signs, balloons and people quickly lined up on the steps. Interviews were given and speeches made: by Jim Faye of the SFTU and VCC, and by Steve Schectman, tenants' attorney.

A bunch of balloons festooned with play money was suddenly released to a chanting of YES ON U. The uninformed passerby might see this as a prediction of a rise in the cost of housing if Proposition U is not passed.

The most celebrated landlords' attorney, Steve Rosenthal, stopped for a fraternal chat with Steve Schectman before entering City Hall. Later, he slithered past the demonstration, his business inside completed as quickly as his stride.

The cops and a city worker, who had aroused some laughter by impersonating a homeless person asking for change, all thought the demonstration was for the homeless. The video crew turned out to be doing a documentary on the homeless for KQED/Channel 9. The pieces of this story may fit together after all: unless Vacancy Control passes, there will be more homeless people in San Francisco.

Three strands of purple ribbon from the YES balloons were left behind to swirl in the wind on the steps of City Hall. Business as usual went on within.

JOIN IN TENANTS UNION ACTIVITIES!

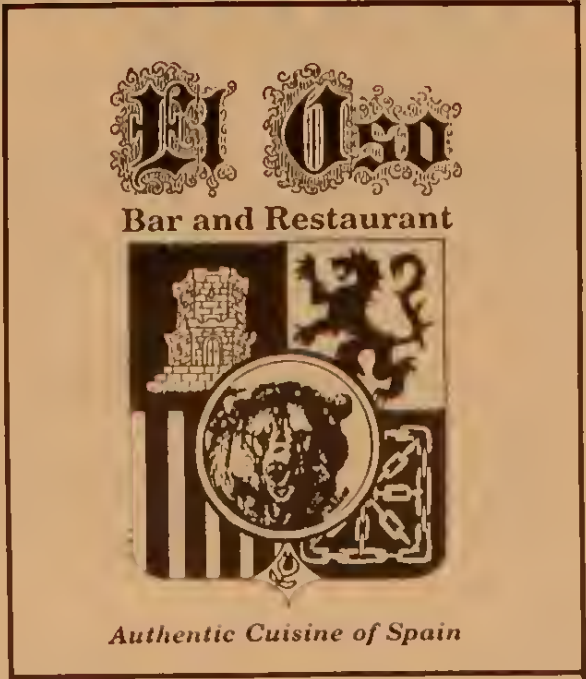
As a member you have an opportunity to become a part of the tenants movement, in a variety of interesting ways. Except for a part-time office manager & volunteer coordinator *all* of our work is done by volunteers working in such key roles as counselors (training provided), producing the newspaper, organizing tenants, raising money . . . For other possibilities see below. *If interested contact the Tenant Union Volunteer Coordinator: Chrts Martinez at 282-5525* or return the coupon. No experience necessary.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: The legislative and electoral action arm of the Tenants Union. The committee meets regularly. If you would like to receive regular bulletlns on tenant legislation & committee activities please leave your name with the volunteer coordinator at 282-5525 or return coupon.

VACANCY CONTROL BALLOT INITIATIVE: Volunteers needed for all aspects of campaign to extend rent control to vacant apartments. Learn how you can help via volunteer coordinator 282-5525.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____

Please add me to Legislative Committee mailing list: _____ Let me know about other volunteer opportunities: Vacancy Control Initiative _____ Tenant Counseling _____ Newsletter: Research _____ Organizing _____ Fundraising _____ Office Work _____ Outreach _____ Direct Action _____ Other _____
Return to: Volunteer Coordinator, SFTU, 558 Capp St., San Francisco, CA 94110



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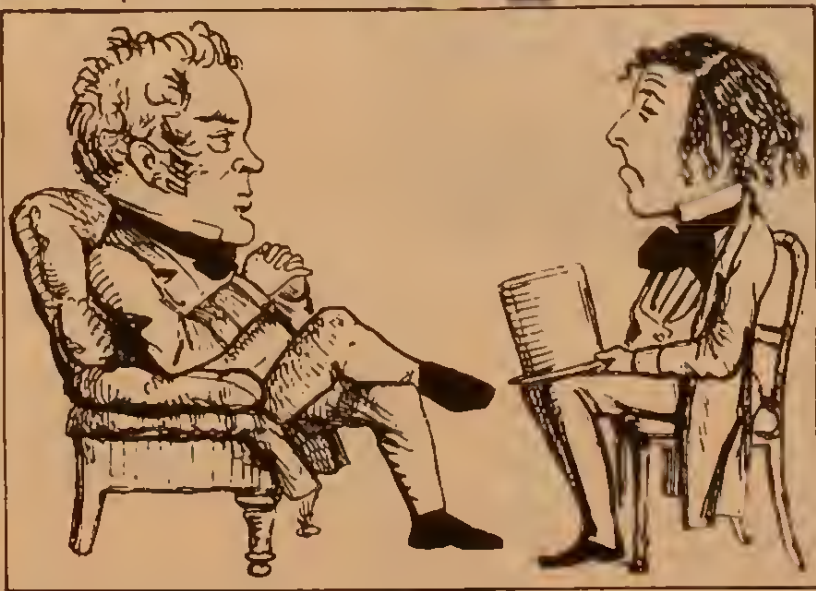
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29-2 THURS-SUN
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

Clandestine Destiny

(*Clandestino Destino*)

7:30, 9:15 with weekend matinees
at 1:30, 3:30, 5:30

Dir Jaime Humberto Hermosillo Mexico 1987
This new feature by the director of *Dona Herlinda and Her Son* takes place in Mexico at the turn of the next century. A young man is despondent and wants to kill himself. His three friends, two women and a gay man set out to give him a new lease on life by all having sex with him one after another. At first he is hesitant, and the three bring him on a retreat to the seashore to break down his resistance. *Clandestino Destino* is a sexy funny film that ponders personal and social issues in a Mexico on the brink of civil war. A hit at this year's Festival of New Latin American Cinema (subtitled, 90m)
Admission \$5 evenings, \$4 matinees (\$1 off w/York card), \$3 seniors, \$2 children

FRI-SUN
OCTOBER

7-9

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CANTO POPULAR

COMING UP!! OCTOBER 20-23:
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The first of its kind festival highlighting women behind the camera, including some of the best feature-length films from Latin America, experimental films, videos and social-oriented documentaries. The festival will have panel discussions on topics related to production and distribution as well as receptions for visiting film and video directors. Presented both at the York and at the Mission Cultural Center. For more information call 553-8135

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OCTOBER

SAT	OCT 01	Dance at the Atomic Cafe w/ O.J. MINK	9:30	FREE
SUN	OCT 02	O.J.'s DOC MARTIN & BLACKSTONE	9:30	FREE
MON	OCT 03	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT H. BOWERS I	9:30	FREE
TUE	OCT 04	HIP HOP, DUB & WOT-NOT w/ O.J. STUART	9:30	\$2.00
WED	OCT 05	REGGAE CALENOAR INT'L DANCE PARTY w/ Reggae videos	9:30	\$2.00
THU	OCT 06	POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. MINK	9:30	FREE
FRI	OCT 07	O.J. dancing with DOC MARTIN	9:30	FREE
SAT	OCT 08	Dance at the Atomic Cafe w/ D.J. MINK	9:30	FREE
SUN	OCT 09	D.J.'s DOC MARTIN & BLACKSTONE	9:30	FREE
MON	OCT 10	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT H. BOWERS I	9:30	FREE
TUE	OCT 11	HIP HOP, DUB & WOT-NOT w/ D.J. STUART	9:30	\$2.00
WED	OCT 12	REGGAE CALENOAR INT'L DANCE PARTY w/ Reggae videos	9:30	\$2.00
THU	OCT 13	POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. MINK	9:30	FREE
FRI	OCT 14	O.J. dancing with DOC MARTIN	9:30	FREE
SAT	OCT 15	Dance at the Atomic Cafe w/ D.J. MINK	9:30	FREE
SUN	OCT 16	O.J.'s DOC MARTIN & BLACKSTONE	9:30	FREE
MON	OCT 17	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT H. BOWERS I	9:30	FREE
TUE	OCT 18	HIP HOP, DUB & WOT-NOT w/ O.J. STUART	9:30	\$2.00
WED	OCT 19	REGGAE CALENOAR INT'L DANCE PARTY w/ Reggae videos	9:30	\$2.00
THU	OCT 20	POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ O.J. MINK	9:30	FREE
FRI	OCT 21	O.J. dancing with DOC MARTIN	9:30	FREE
SAT	OCT 22	Dance at the Atomic Cafe w/ O.J. MINK	9:30	FREE
SUN	OCT 23	D.J.'s DOC MARTIN & BLACKSTONE	9:30	FREE
MON	OCT 24	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT H. BOWERS I	9:30	FREE
TUE	OCT 25	HIP HOP, DUB & WOT-NOT w/ O.J. STUART	9:30	\$2.00
WED	OCT 26	REGGAE CALENDAR INT'L DANCE PARTY w/ Reggae videos	9:30	\$2.00
THU	OCT 27	POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ O.J. MINK	9:30	FREE
FRI	OCT 28	O.J. dancing with DOC MARTIN	9:30	FREE
SAT	OCT 29	Dance at the Atomic Cafe w/ O.J. MINK	9:30	FREE
SUN	OCT 30	O.J.'s DOC MARTIN & BLACKSTONE	9:30	FREE
MON	OCT 31	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT H. BOWERS I	9:30	FREE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS OCTOBER

SATURDAY, OCT. 1

Biko - The Broken Silence and other films on South Africa, and guest appearance by filmmaker Nadine Kadey. 8:30 at ATA, 922 Valencia, \$4. 824-3890.

Conflict Resolution Training by Community Boards, 149 9th Street. Call 239-6100. Make new friends from old enemies.

MONDAY, OCT. 3

Introduction To Marxism series starts today, runs each Wednesday in October through the 24th. 7:30 pm, Book Center, 518 Valencia, \$10 for series. 863-6968.

TUESDAY, OCT. 4

Fiction Writers Open Reading at Modern Times Bookstore. Co-sponsored with National Writers Union. 968 Valencia, 282-9246. Register at 7 pm.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5

The Mission, a full length work by the satirical group *Culture Class* opens at Intersection of the Arts. What's the mission? Frustrated comics' plot to kidnap Julio Iglesias. 766 Valencia, \$15. Runs through Oct. 22, \$8 & \$10. Call 626-3311.

Mary Jane Eisenberg Dance Company in world premiere of *Accumulated Assumptions-Going Up*. Footwork, 3221 22nd Street, 8:30, \$8. Call 824-5044.

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

Back in that car and get the ring. Randy Dunagan explores love and romance as presented in pop music from the 50s to the 70s in *Records and Romance*. 7:30 pm, Book Center, 518 Valencia. \$3 - \$5. Call 863-6968.

Ecofeminism and Animal Liberation. Writer Mari Kheel and songwriter Jennifer Berezon detail the devaluation of women, animals and nature. 7:30 pm, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. Donation \$3 - \$5.

Herbs & AIDS explored in a panel discussion moderated by John James, editor of AIDS Treatment News. 8 pm, New College Auditorium, 777 Valencia. 861-1101.

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

You think the 14 Mission is an adventure, check out *Titicut Follies*, which journeys into the inhuman horrors of a Massachusetts mental hospital. 8:30 pm, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5. Call 924-3890.

Musical Equipment Sale. Komotion *huge* garage sale for garage bands; buy a tuba, annoy a neighbor. 9 am to 5 pm, Komotion, 2779 16th Street.

Nicaraguan Youth Tour sponsored by Maestros Por La Paz (Teachers for Peace). 2 high school students, 2 university students tour to promote student to student communication, and peace and friendship. Dolores Baptist Church, Dolores at 15th, 7:30 pm. Donation requested.

SUNDAY, OCT. 9

Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home? Karen Thompson, the former's lover, is on-hand for the publication celebration of this book which chronicles her attempts to regain access to Sharon, who was seriously disabled in a car crash. 7:00, New College, 777 Valencia. Call 282-9246.

MONDAY, OCT. 10

Older Gay Men's Friendship Group. Discussions, outings, and fun. Sponsored by Operation Concern, 2:45 pm, Friendship Room, 711 Eddy Street, 626-7000.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12

Soviet Underground Feminism from Leningrad's *Olga Lipovskaya*, editor of *Women's Reading*, the USSR's only underground feminist journal. She'll discuss the current situation under Gorbachev. 7:30, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia, 282-9246. Donations requested.

THURSDAY, OCT. 13

Beat Poetry & Jazz with Miles Mellough. KUSF DJ Mellough (*Bebop and Beyond*) sets the scene for finger-snapping. Alligator Gallery, 924 Valencia, \$5-\$6. Call 695-0845.

FRIDAY, OCT. 14

Bar None, or You Choose The Murderer. This comedy/murder mystery, set in a SF bar, includes audience participation to the point where the audience votes for the murderer - but you *only* get five different endings to choose from. Zephyr Theatre, 25 Van Ness, Thurs-Sunday at 8, Sat. at 10:30, Sunday at 2 pm. Call 861-6895.

SATURDAY, OCT. 15

Benefit for Leonard Peltier with *Lakota Singers*, poet *Alejandro Murgia*, dancer *Gina Picardo*, and bands *Change* and *Industrial Rain Forest*. No mimes listed. 8 pm, Komotion, 2779 16th Street.

Comedy on the Hill - Bernal, not Nob. Non-toxic singer/songwriter and recovering worry-holic Lynn Grasberg performs with friends. 8 pm, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cordland, \$5.

SUNDAY, OCT. 16

New & Nearly New Dances presents Ann Woodhead as guest artist. Footwork, 7:30, 3221 22nd Street, \$5.

MONDAY, OCT. 17

Bay Area Theatresports presents its new fall line-up, including the Political Show and the Olympics Show. 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street, \$5.

JULIO IGLESIAS



- by Sam Berry

It was a most interesting meeting. Two gentlemen, residents of the Mission District, met with me at Alligator Gallery. They were interesting, articulate, funny men. Members of a three-man troupe called Culture Clash. Their names are Herbert Siguenza and Ricardo Salinas. The missing member is Richard Montoya, the Chicano of the group, according to Ricardo. He lives in Sacramento, although no one can explain why this is. Perhaps he is trying to gain an understanding of that great enigma of our times, suburban culture. But Sacramento is not the cause of the clash in the group's name; nor is it the subject of this article. I'm writing to tell you about "The Mission", a premiere, full-length comedy that will be appearing at Intersection Art Center on Valencia Street October 5-22.

"It's a brown comedy," says Salinas, a native of El Salvador who was asked to leave the country "not for political reasons, but because he was an embarrassment to his people," according to his press release. Salinas is a self-described "bilingual rapper, poet, actor, writer, comic and dancer."

"You notice that there is a great deal being made of Latino culture lately, with Latino actors being used more often in the beer commercials and the like," explains Siguenza, the many faceted actor who has portrayed Julio Iglesias, Michael Jackson, Prince, Scarface, Ruben Blades, Mick Jagger, Linda Ronstadt, Carlos Santana, Frida Kahlo and more. His press release notes that these are similar characters, but then everyone has some limits. "All this is being done on a very commercial level. We question whether this is positive. It doesn't address the complexity of Latino culture. What are we? Everyone assumes we didn't grow up with I Dream of Jeanie -- but some of us did and some of us didn't. We

deal with both realities."

The title has a triple meaning. The play begins with the establishment of the Spanish Missions along the California coast in the eighteenth century and the accompanying denial of the indigenous culture, a culture that is still denied by both the larger American society and within the Latino community, according to the members of Culture Clash. The play goes on to portray the plight of three Latino actors living in San Francisco's Mission District and the difficulties they have in getting work and avoiding being stereotyped in their field. Frustrated, they form a desperate mission to kidnap Julio Iglesias, the ransom being a chance for them to act. Throughout the play the three members of Culture Clash bring to life characters from their large stockpile, people both in and outside the Latino community.

"The Mission" very intentionally talks to serious issues through comedy. Aside from the autobiographical aspects of the play, the group also addresses the confusion of Latino culture in the United States coping with the external pressures of the larger American culture around it, and the internal pressures that a diverse, rapidly changing Latino community finds itself confronted by. It is the oversimplification and stereotyping of these issues that Culture Clash and "The Mission" challenges, and they won't stop challenging them until they at least get us to laugh. "When we grew up there were no Latino actors for us to look up to as role models -- maybe Speedy Gonzales?" says Siguenza. "Culture Clash hopes to change that. As a Latino group we are pioneering a new form in that we are using comedy and satire rather than serious drama." Culture Clash has toured nationally, and Salinas reports that a group of children they performed for in Houston wanted to form a group called Sons of Culture Clash.

"We see a lot of hope in the Mission District," says Siguenza. "It's one of the few communities where you have so many cultures mixed together, living peacefully."

"The Mission" runs Wednesdays through Saturdays, October 5 through 22 at 8 PM at Intersection Art Center, 766 Valencia Street between 18th and 19th Streets. Tickets are \$15 for the October 5 gala opening, \$8 Wednesdays and Thursdays, \$10 Friday and Saturdays, and are available at STBS Union Square or by calling Intersection's box office at 626-3311.



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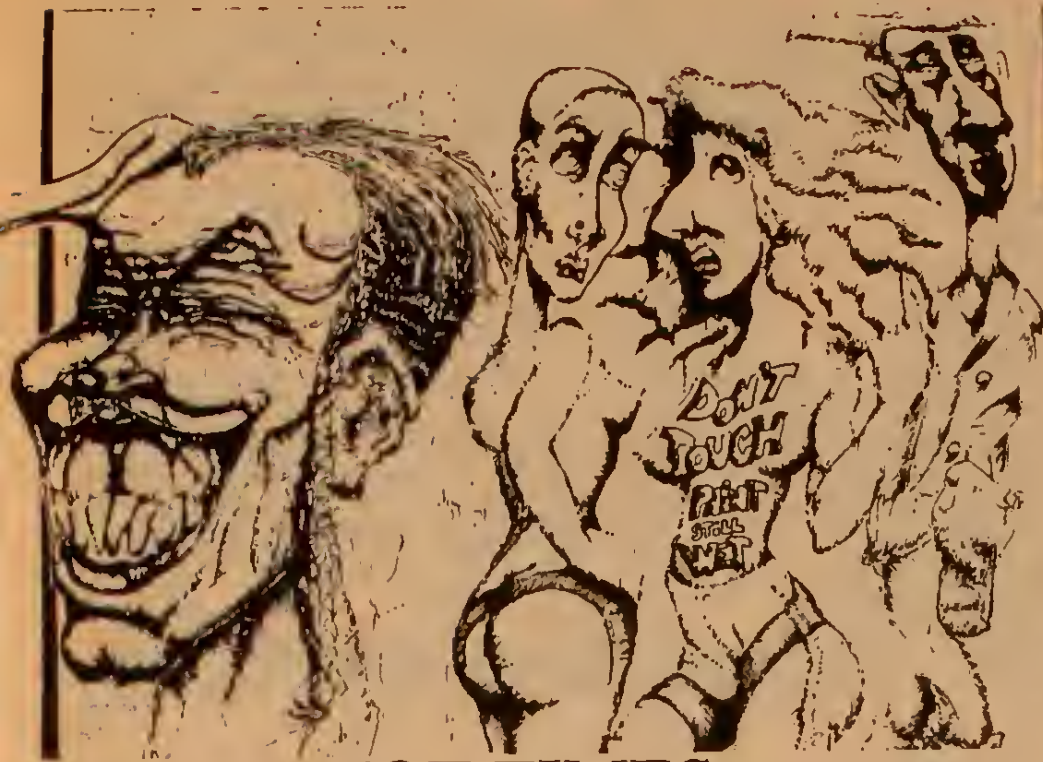
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HOT TIMES AT THE FIREHOUSE

The Firehouse 7 is one of the only things that attracts my friends into the Mission District after dark. They happily leave their East Bay homes and cozy SOMA clubs to visit the Firehouse 7. I have to admit I was a little bit surprised to hear of the club's popularity; I guess I took the Firehouse for granted, since I live only a few blocks away.

I was out last Friday celebrating a friend's birthday in a nameless South of Market bar when the celebration moved en masse towards my neighborhood; destination Firehouse 7. It wasn't the first time I had entered those doors at 16th and Albion, but it was the first time I had travelled across town to do so. Typically, I was the only one stopped at the door for ID. It never fails; I am the oldest one in the group of club-goers, and usually the only one asked to prove that I have put in well over two decades of life on the planet. Be warned, you need to be twenty one or over to patronize the Firehouse 7.

The place was packed. I marvelled at the tenacity of the pool players. A well watched pool battle is being waged every time I go to the Firehouse and last Friday was no exception. It was with persistence and a few shoves that I made my way into the back room, where the dance floor is located. I think it was Funk/Rap and something else night. Actually, having checked my Firehouse 7 schedule, it was DJ Doc Martin.

Actually, it was the name "Doc Martin" that had me thinking that the Firehouse 7 was a hang-out for Skinheads. Well that and the fact that as I passed the Firehouse one night, a Skinhead taunted me with the words "Fucking hippie". My instant association with the

name Doc Martin is one of British work boots worn as an anti-status Skinhead status symbol. However, it is safe to say the majority of attenders at DJ Doc Martin's gig have hair.

The music is varied and loud. The dance floor is usually crowded and on the steamy side. There is always room for a few more dancers at the Firehouse; in fact new arrivals are welcomed effusively. A small stage is located on the back of the dance floor and offers a perfect pedestal for the hip and groovy. If you plan to dance on the stage, wear vintage, spandex and lots of black. Unlike a number of other clubs in SF, the stage dwellers are not particularly good dancers; it's more like a post-modern fashion show than anything else.

Another feature of the Firehouse 7; simple, yet one of my favorite things, is the black light which illuminates the back part of the club. Ever since the seventies, I have loved to watch my friends' teeth glow in incandescent purple. It's the little extras (along with the patrons) that make a club.

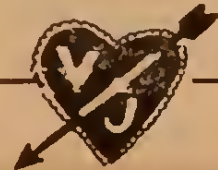
The patrons are gregarious. Be prepared to make new friends, meet future husbands, and converse with many. Actually, you don't really converse in the Firehouse, you shout. It is definitely not the place for a quiet and intimate drink. It is a place to let loose and dance. The place attracts a varied crowd of patrons, all looking for something on the wild side. My friends explained to me that there was always something good going on there; always some action. I was actually first introduced to Firehouse 7 early on in the summer; just a few days after my arrival in San Francisco. The Firehouse was hosting the showing of a movie about SF bike messengers. It may not have been the talk of the town, but it was definitely the hottest source of entertainment for my flatmates. It takes a special kind of place together together the infamously diverse bike messengers of SF. It was a colorful showing and well attended. Few other clubs can boast of such an event.

Actually, the Firehouse used to have special events and live shows on a regular basis. Now, DJ's fill the hours with music once performed live. The club offers many types of music; from post-modern to reggae. There is something happening every night of the week. Fridays and Saturdays are busy nights at the Firehouse. However, you can usually find a drink after a few minutes and a little bit of assertion. As with most of the clubs in the Mission, drinks are reasonable and the cover is free; a combination I am personally quite fond of.

If it is entertainment you want, it is entertainment you get. When you are tired of dancing, have fought your way to the bar (it's always such a personal victory getting the bartender's attention it seems almost anti-climatic to order a Calistoga) and gotten a drink, you can sit back and watch the people parade. Beastie Boy wanna-be's mingle with the occasional skinhead; burnt-out hippies brush arms with new wave bim-bettes; and post-modern hipsters create a scene unmatched anywhere else.

The Firehouse is down right cozy; something like an oversized cocktail party with a socially schizophrenic hostess. It seems to attract a diverse group of nightcrawlers, who probably have nothing other than this club in common. And if for no other reason than that, you might want to check the place out.

- by Nancy Netherland



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MISSION HANDBOOK

San Francisco's Mission District is the fastest growing neighborhood in the City. In the last ten years the influx of immigrants into this district, and the subsequent influence of small business, service organizations, schools, medical/dental services and the general traffic of the street, has dramatically increased in volume the intense process of miscegenation that reflects nearly every nationality of the earth, retail business basically concentrated into an eleven block area running in a straight line down Mission Street, between 15th and 25th, respectfully.

Four years ago I had the idea of writing a column around a main four-course part of this street, focused on the "feet of the people", the incoming migration, in other words, and the effects this was having on small business, and general quality of lifestyle for people who spoke many different languages, along with the problems of adjustment for both parents and children. I chose the corners of 24th and Mission because it better represented a part of the street focused on a family shopping area, rather than transient hotels and bars, which seemed to be more concentrated from 19th to 16th Streets.

I also wanted to write about the artists and writers who lived here, who frequented the few coffee houses, and who were often ignored as a viable influence on other parts of the street society. I knew that even though young artists and writers did not seem to be a part of the "family" society, that they in fact came out of the family society, and that eventually new creative ideas found their way back into the mainstream of home and school. I thought of the energy of creative thought as a healthy and observant occupation that needed more of a support system, both emotional and monetary.

One of the most expedient vehicles to aid in gaining a more cohesive support system for all parts of the world street comes through the written word. A monthly column, though not nearly so informative as a daily, reaches a lot of minds at one time and might get the ball rolling a little faster for a neighborhood in need of a clearer definition, difficult to obtain because of the vastly different array of languages and customs. Obviously, this process would take at least three years to develop for me personally. For one, I find it takes at least that amount of time to get to know people, to understand the system and to build dependable relationships. Secondly, during this last four years, businesses have come and gone rapidly, some of them opening and closing within a year and a half. Also, property rates were changing rapidly with the influx of Asian dollars, pushing out many small businesses who had old leases soon to run out. When it came time to sign a new lease, the rent rates were going speculatively sky high, before the walking traffic, impulse buying public would bring enough new business to qualify paying a much higher rent. Regardless of the sadness I experienced seeing this process, since I was powerless to contribute to better answers, I, like many others, would have to cooperate with what actually existed. The main thought that I kept in my head during this time was, "You can't contribute to a neighborhood by moving away."

So, during this time of personal research into the environs of "La Mision", I went personally to each business, using the guise of the North Mission News for information and advertising purposes, sold decorations for Carnaval, found out who was friendly, who had problems, and what those general problems were. I also gathered recipes and stories of the many difficult journeys made by families who came to settle here. I gathered poems and artwork, dreams and wishes, movements and causes, feet, hands and eyes. Many things. All the elements that come with trying to find a way to live in a new land, place, town where there were language, residence, school and, primarily, work barriers to be overcome. I gathered bits and pieces of cultures and languages. And recently, I traveled in Mexico during their elections in order to see the other side of the story of "La Frontera" with my own eyes.

I returned to begin physically assembling what I called a "HANDBOOK TO THE MISSION". I'll describe the contents to you as clearly as I can, and try to demonstrate its purpose and value to not only the City of San Francisco, but to the World Village as a whole. For in this district exists an intense "THINK TANK" environment needing a simple hands-on definition, easily accessible and understandable to the general population as well as to those involved in similar projects/research/growth.

HANDBOOK TO THE MISSION will contain these categories:

Retail Merchants: (cross referenced under specialized services, for example, shoe stores who also do repair)

Wholesale/Manufacturers

Service organizations: both profit and non-profit

Artists and writers: and any services they wish to offer, such as mural painting, design for festivals, writing for events and so on

History of the Mission District: and personal histories

Poems, Paintings, Photography and Recipes

A guide for finding specialized food products

Multi-lingual insertions with a direction towards bilingual Spanish/English translation for poems, foods and services

This will include the address and phone numbers for personal contact with anyone who wants to advertise their work/product/business.

While I am working on the larger volume, for completion sometime in the Spring of 1989, I will be publishing a street version in the small form of an "Arte Pobre" publication, with corrugated cardboard, newspaper and xeroxed copy, coming out every two months with writing, artwork, recipes and food finds. These books will be for sale (in limited editions) as they are painted and assembled by hand from found materials, and made available in the local coffee houses (to date) the LA BOHEME CAFE and the CAFE NIDAL, for \$4 an issue.

In the month of October, the first issue will be centered around El Dia De Los Muertos, and there will be a show up on the walls of the Cafe La Boheme, with an opening occurring on October 18th from 7:00 PM on into the night. At that time, I will be looking for any additional contributions for THE HAND, to be considered for both the street version and the spring publication. I will also be looking for a limited number of advertisers for the street publication, of whom my first is the local branch of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, as well as an ad touting readership of the NORTH MISSION NEWS. I think you'll all get the picture of the kind of advertisers I am looking for. The rates will be



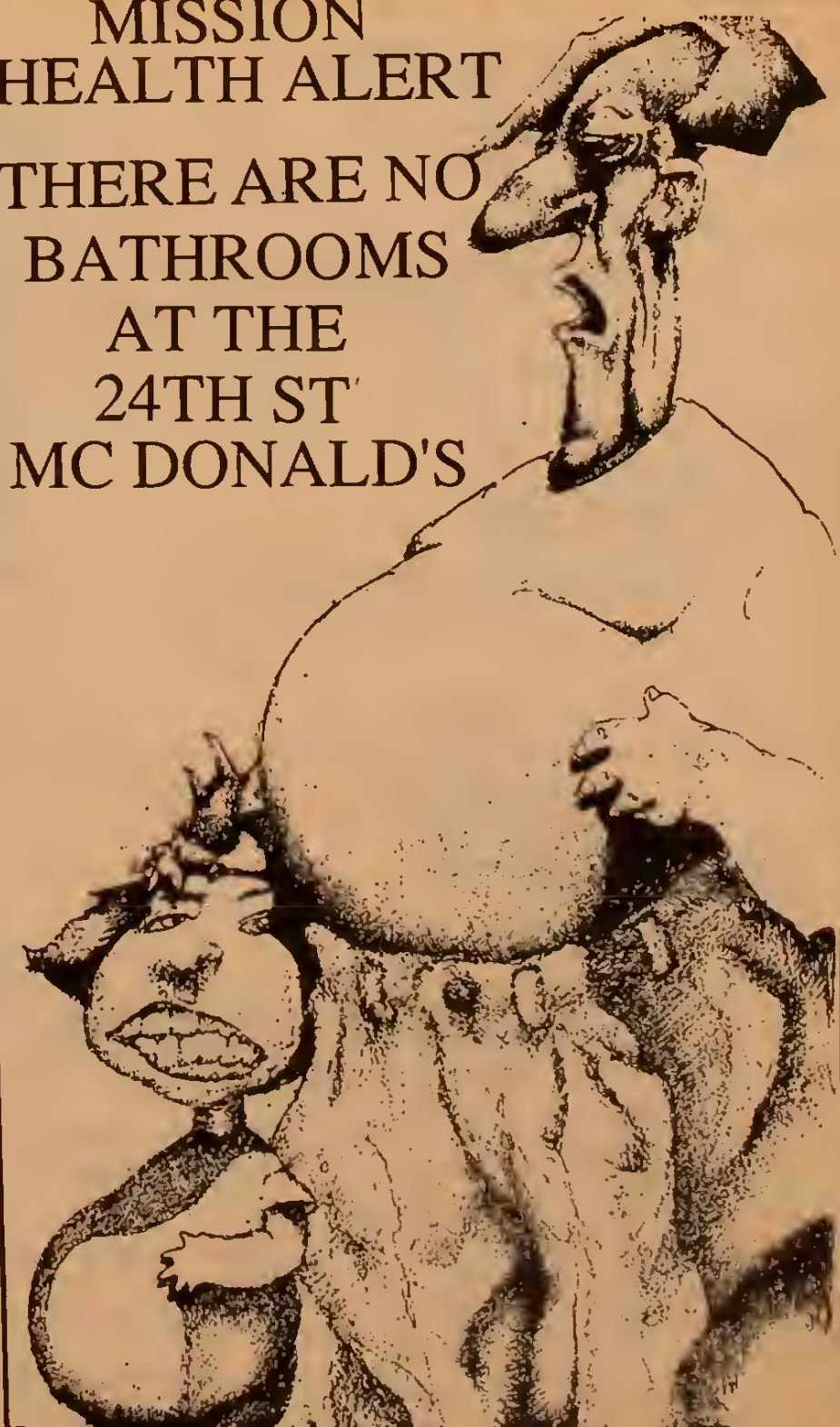
reasonable, and I will take ads for artists, writers and a personal thought page. The business ad rate is \$50, Personals \$5, Artist and Writer business listings \$10. The street version will be an accordion design, tied with sisal. I take this design from the poor artists and writers of Latin America who make a practice of using found materials for their handmade books.

The primary publication will be a high quality hardcover version and will be available in local bookstores and business in the Mission and made available to libraries, universities and City Planners.

Anyone who has material for THE HAND can leave it for me in my name, or with the universally significant signature of their hand at the LA BOHEME CAFE, any time from now on. I'm looking forward to finding out what is on YOUR MINDS . . . PAZ.



MISSION
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ARTAUD CODE BC-SO2-1



by Michael S. Bell

Project Artaud (499 Alabama) is about to become 16 years old in October. Normally the passing of a sixteenth birthday is fairly routine except when it involves one's children. Project Artaud is the child of many and we are all custodians of its life. In 1970 or so, Project Artaud artist Ed Lowe produced the fine illusion illustrated above. The drawing suggests, even today, something of what that time and the project itself mean to us still. Floating on a larger version of themselves, three smaller compatible structures are both related and separate. Project Artaud is a building but it is also a potent social strength. And as when Artaud himself was expelled from, but subsequently exonerated by, the leading cultural forces of his community, so too has the colony bearing his name withstood the rigors of time.

Today Project Artaud is, with many other artist housing projects in our region, a model of efficient, non-exploitative live/work quarters. When I moved here from LA in 1971, Artaud and Project One were just forming themselves through the counter culture. Artaud has survived, and is now blossoming. It can rightly claim major leadership because of its shared equity among residents, but also because its Theatre Artaud, Studio Eremos and Southern Exposure Gallery have contributed mightily to the growth and encouragement of performing and visual arts well as beyond most other venues similarly constituted.

As a paradigm of ethnic, racial, aesthetic, gender and political integration, Project Artaud demonstrates the collaborative viability which is the law of our own nation overall. As an alternative to excessive real estate speculation, Artaud shows that, as a community, we can successfully operate our own specialized variety of housing. When the history of this effort is written, the list of residents and productions will most certainly exist at the highest rank of pioneering significance. Chiefly because of the efforts of Project Artaud and the Sears Building, live/work units in Frisco have become easier to build under existing building codes. City art advocates have rallied to assist in ensuring the future of live/work here, and though the process is not yet perfect we will all benefit greatly from their successes.

At the time of this writing the latest difficulty at Artaud has to do with those lovely trees planted in the sidewalks. Early in Artaud's history the City planted trees that turn out to be inappropriate because their root systems go out instead of down. Roots that go outwardly end up destroying the sidewalk. Now the City has told Artaud that they must not only repair the damaged concrete, but also replace the trees! Seems to me that the bureaucracy made an error that the people of Project Artaud should not be held responsible for. Artaud has already accepted bids for both sidewalk and tree replacement.

Considering the delicacy of finances at Artaud and their willingness to accommodate the City's request to take care of the problem, maybe the City needs to admit its mistake and come forward with some trees! Every penny counts, and Artaud's administration has bent over backwards to live with the code demands of local government as a matter of record.

Enough is Enough! Get on it, folks!

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La - by Betsy Randolph



WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL

"La" is back! I have returned from summer wayfaring in East Africa and am pleased to herald an event of special interest to the Mission community. Here is a unique opportunity to view films and videos from some of the best women filmmakers working in Latin America and the U.S. today.

From October 19 to 23rd, CINE ACCION, an organization of Latino filmmakers started in the early 80's, will present the first major West Coast tribute to Latin American and Chicana women behind the camera at THE WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL.

Co-directors Elaine Vergelin and Liz Kotz, at CINE ACCION's 9th and Harrison office, have worked hard to coordinate this premiere event.

Over 50 works will be screened representing 15 countries in Central and South America, along with submissions from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Canada and the United States. The five day event will include a Director's Showcase of award winning feature film and a selection of lesser known works by women who have gone on to become leaders in the New Latin American Cinema movement.

The Festival will highlight six feature films by renowned women director at the York Theater and U.C. Theater in Berkeley on October 20, 21 and 22. They include the U.S. premiere to ETERNALLY PAGU (ETERNAMENTE, PAGU) by Brazil's Norma Benguell, recent winner of the Grand Prize at the Rio International Film Festival, Tizuka Yamasaki's BELOVED COUNTRY (PATRIAMADA), NOBODY'S WOMAN (SENORA DE NADIE) by Maria Luisa Benberg, Susana Amaral's THE HOUR OF THE STAR (DE CIERTA MANERA) by Sara Gomez of Cuba and, from the New Latin American Cinema Festival in June '88, MACU: THE POLICEMAN'S WIFE (MACU: LA MUJER DEL POLICIA) by Venezuela's Solveign Hoogesteijn.

Among the documentary selections will be the San Francisco premiere of ELVIA: A FIGHT FOR LAND AND LIBERTY by local producer Laura Rodriguez, LAND FOR ROSE (TERRA PARA ROSE) by Tete Moraes of Brazil, winner of the Best Film Award by the National Council of Film Clubs in Brazil, and FROM HERE, FROM THIS SIDE (DE ACA, DE ESTE LADO) by Mexico's Gloria Ribe.

Noteworthy short fictional works in film and video are: AN ISLAND SURROUNDED BY WATER (UNA ISLA RODEADA DE AGUA) by Maria Novaro of Mexico, CLAY AND SHADOWS (SOMBRAS Y BARRO) by Venezuela's Emilia Anguita, and UNFINISHED DIARY (DIARIO INCONCLUSO) by Chilean exile Marilu Maillet.

Additional programs at Mission Cultural Center (MCC) on Saturday and Sunday include a presentation by the El Salvador Media Project, an afternoon of Brazilian videos, recent documentaries on Central America, on the immigrant experience, and on women artists. Additional selections will also be programmed on Channel 25 and PCTV.

Foreign and local filmmakers attending the Festival, including Lourdes Portillo and Sylvia Morales, will be honored at the Director's Reception, October 20 at 9 PM at the MCC. Several directors, scholars and critics will also participate in panel discussion speaking to the issues of "Women in Latin American Cinema", "Chicana and Latina Filmmakers in the U.S." and "Distribution Strategies", to name a few.

THE WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL is "an indication that women are starting to be a force in the filmmaking industry in Latin America," where they have been working for years, says filmmaker and director Lourdes Portillo of Bernal Heights. Portillo is serving on the Festival's Advisory Committee. She notes that it is probably "more difficult here (in the U.S.) for Latinas to get feature length films done." Although machismo poses a problem for women artists in Latin America, Portillo suggests that racism (and economic conditions) may be the greatest obstacle to the recognition and success of Chicana filmmakers.

Portillo directed the Academy-nominated documentary LAS MADRES DE LA PLAZA DE MAYO (1985), which was aired nationally on PBS' Points of View TV series this past August. She also co-directed a short documentary, AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE, with Nina Serrano. Currently, Portillo is editing a new film about the Day of the Dead and how it is celebrated in California and Mexico. This "experimental documentary" is seen through the eyes of a Chicana, and was filmed in San Francisco and Mexico. She hopes to release it in February or March of next year, screening it first in the community and then trying to get it shown in International Film Festivals.

"Filmmaking is not a solitary undertaking," insists Portillo. She cites CINE ACCION, Women in Film and the Film Arts Foundation as important support organizations in the Bay Area. A filmmaker definitely needs to be a part of a community. Fortunately, Portillo feels, "I am a part of it here." Don't miss this opportunity to look, learn and celebrate a unique filmmaking community at THE WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL. Elaine Verbelin can field further questions at Cine Accion, 553-8135.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, October 21 - Mission Cultural Center

2:00 PM SEMINAR: FEATURE FUNDRAISING with Marine Dominguez (FREE!)

4:30 PM PRIVATE RECEPTION VIDEO INSTALLATION (Galeria de la Raza)

NEUROSIS ON WHEELS - Betty Kaplan, USA/Venezuela

AS KINEASTAS - Vik, Brazil

SELECTIONS - Olga Futemma, Brazil

6:00 PM DIRECTORS' SHOWCASE - York Theater (\$4.50/\$3.50 per show)

LAND FOR ROSE - Tete Moraes, Brazil (Director in person)

8:00 PM ETERNALLY: PAGU - Norma Benguell, Brazil (York Theater)

A hit new feature film directed by the popular Brazilian actress, PAGU is the story of an artist from the 1930's who was famous for her politics and uncommonly liberated lifestyle. Winner of the Grand Prize at the 1988 Rio Cinema Festival.

10:00 PM NOBODY'S WOMAN - Maria Luisa Benberg, Argentina (York Theater)

Made during the military regime, this feature film makes a daring statement about a middle-aged Argentinian woman's refusal to live a lie; by the director of CAMILA and MISS MARY.

AN ISLAND SURROUNDED BY WATER - Maria Novaro, Mexico

A beautiful and poetic short fictional account of a young girl's search for her mother, who has left to join a guerilla movement.

SATURDAY, October 22 - Mission Cultural Center

8:00 PM PATRIAMADA - Tizuka Yamasaki, Brazil (York Theater \$4.50/\$3.50)

Mixing history and imagination, this innovative film sets a fictional love triangle between an industrialist, a filmmaker and a journalist into the tumultuous events of Brazil's 1984 mass movement for direct elections. Made by the Japanese-Brazilian director of GAIJIN.

10:00 PM MACU: THE POLICEMAN'S WIFE - Solveign Hoogesteijn, Venezuela (York)

A passionate and disturbing story of a young girl's tempestuous, dangerous marriage to a policeman, this first feature film by a Venezuelan woman was the surprise hit of Cine Accion's Festival of Latin American Cinema in June, 1988.





JESUS HELGUERA

(The Calendar as Art)

If you have lived in the Mission for any period of time, you've probably shopped at the local Mexican tienda for whatever reason. Behind the cashier, you've noticed the ubiquitous Mexican calendar with the usual muscular Aztec flecher poised to shoot the arrow into the sky as he stands over the lifeless beautiful maiden.

The Mission Cultural Center, along with the Mexican Consulate and Cigarerra La Moderna presents "Calendar As Art". This exhibition offers the work of the leading calendar artist Jesus Helguera.

Helguera is the quintessential Mexican commercial artist. His art has an immediate message, his backgrounds are idyllic, his subjects are slightly greater than life. He's able to capture precious moments in the same fashion as Norman Rockwell did.

His art circulated throughout Mexico and the Mexican America of the Southwest United States. He has influenced Chicano muralists and artists, and contributed to the introspection of Mexicans everywhere.

The exhibition will be shown at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street (near 24th) until October 10th. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to see a fantastic exhibition.

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MISSION: COMPUTE HORRORS

By Jennie E. Rodríguez

The stories you are about to read will sure scare the hell out of you whether an experienced user or a novice, especially if you are not in the habit of backing up (your documents, of course), not to mention handling your equipment/software properly. Your flesh will creep and your blood will run cold as you read on ...

FINANCIAL BUMMER

Faith D., an accountant, changed her system last year from manual to computerized. She entered into the computer all her clients' tax information. Faith did not care to make a back up, not even a hard copy (a physical copy). Two months before taxes were due, her hard disk crashed, and so did she, as well as her 20 clients' tax files. She spent the entire next month reconstructing all her clients' files from the very beginning. This meant not taking any new clients, postponing other tasks, and practically putting her home and social life "on non-deductible hold."



NOT A BRIEF ERROR

Todd V., a paralegal in a law firm, completed a 30 page brief on an important case, but decided to print the document on the following morning, when it was due for court filing. To Todd's amazement next morning, he discovered that the document had been deleted by a new paralegal who had been sharing the computer. Miraculously, the matter between the two paralegals was not heard in court, but Todd had to ask for a 24 hr. court extension to file the brief, and practically secluded himself in the office until 10 p.m. retyping the document.

c:> File not found.

DEVIL'S FOOD

Rosa R., owns a successful catering service in San Francisco, she keeps in the computer all her client's information and orders; brunches, wedding luncheons, business banquets, etc. While the red save button was lit, Rosa removed the diskette crasing most of the files which she had not backed up. At daybreak, Rosa was calling all her clients to find out who had put an order; who had ordered the Hawaiian Delight buffet, the Mexican luncheon, the right kids for the 5 Chocolate Surprise cakes in her freezer, and the addresses where to deliver them.



No piece of cake!

If the gruesome, graphic cases you just read *did* scare you, I'm glad, that was the whole idea! I cannot stress hard enough the importance of backing up your documents, and exercising proper care and maintenance of your equipment and software. They are valuable and so is your time and your work.

Computers are great, and what you do with them is fantastic. But, unfortunately, the electronic media is an ephemeral one; it is subjected to power failures, system crashes, limited memory, acts of God (or the Devil?), and why not, to human errors.

I have to admit this is one of the drawbacks of computers, which we all come across sooner or later, and in the worst moment, believe me. When working with sheets of paper, it is almost impossible to duplicate the errors you can make on a computer. Of course fire, theft, or the not-so-long-ago popular paper shredding can have a similar effect.

But as my partner says, "computers are here to stay, there's no going back now". And to be honest, I can't do without one now, even with its drawbacks.

So, relax, it won't happen to you if you take the necessary precautions. Compulsion here is no weakness. Think of your disks and treat them as a rare collection; they are your records! Save frequently the text you are working on; make back up disks of important data; keep magnetized objects (such as: paper clips, scissors, and ringing telephones), as well as food, grease, oil, dirt, etc. away from your diskettes; label diskettes with a felt tip pen *only*, keep them in its jacket (or a loaner) when not in use, and please, do not touch the magnetic part; if smudged it can cause the disk drive to mistrack.

Now that you know some of the solutions to these potential dangers, ignorance cannot be an excuse. Put them in practice and avoid the horrors that await those who fail to do so. Beware!

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WOMEN AND CHINESE MEDICINE

by Misha Cohen, O.M.D., C.A.

Women can gain a great deal from using Chinese Medicine, often as a primary care modality. This does not mean that women should only see an acupuncturist or herbalist, but can use acupuncture and herbs especially for prevention and to take care of the majority of gynecological problems.

Women should also see a trusted medical doctor at least once a year for a Pap smear and a general gynecological exam, as this is necessary for detecting and preventing cervical cancer. Also, women need to be checked for breast cancer and should learn to check their breasts each month as a life-saving tool.

In terms of Chinese medicine, women can benefit from the preventative aspects of Chinese medicine, such as having to pulse read and tongue diagnosis as well as a complete Chinese medicine intake. Oftentimes, women's problems will show up as energetic imbalances prior to showing up organically. Such things as mild depression prior to the period or a little bloating may not seem so serious, but indicated an imbalance that Chinese Medicine can help greatly with.

I have worked extensively with pregnant women, women with premenstrual syndrome, women who are infertile, women with cervical dysplasia and so on. Some of my most favorite "success" stories are with these people. Contrary to some people's notions, acupuncture is a good adjunct to other prenatal care and is not contraindicated in pregnancy. Certain points may not be used in pregnancy and it is important that your acupuncturist be aware of these points. Also, there are many herbs that should not be used during pregnancy or during nursing a baby. Your herbalist should be aware of these contraindicated herbs as well.

Certain acupuncture treatments are used at various times during pregnancy to help both the mother and baby to be as strong as possible and to help with a smooth delivery. Ask your acupuncturist for the special acupuncture point used at 12 and 24 weeks to strengthen the baby's genetic energy.

Acupuncture can also be used during delivery for various effects. If dilation is slow, there are certain points that can be used to cause more dilation. Also, acupuncture can help the mother be stronger and not get too tired during delivery. Also, acupuncture can be a natural pain reliever that does not interfere with the birth process.

Massage, especially Shiatsu or other pressure point massage, is wonderful for a pregnant woman.

Infertility is another case in which Chinese Medicine shows a great deal of success. I have been treating a woman for about a year who came to me after six years of having no period and no ovulation. Within four months of acupuncture and herb treatment she began to have regular periods and, about three months ago, she became pregnant. This was after trying a course of Western medication that did not work.

Menopause is another big area in which Chinese medicine can play a big role. Many of the symptoms associated with the hormonal changes of menopause can be dealt with through Chinese herbs and acupuncture. Anxiety, depression, hot flashes, bloating, dryness of the skin and mucous membranes are all able to be addressed with Chinese medicine. The process of menopause becomes much easier if these symptoms can be relieved.

We can go on and on, however, I just want to say that Chinese medicine has helped vast numbers of women throughout the world and many women are catching on quickly to Chinese medicine in the U.S. today and using it as a primary health care tool. I encourage all women to join their sisters in taking care of your health care problems in as natural and self-caring way as possible.

WOMEN'S HEALTH FESTIVAL

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center and Quan Yin Acupuncture and Herb Center of San Francisco are sponsoring a day called A Women's Festival of Chinese and Natural Medicine. There will be several practitioners and teachers available on that day in a lecture format giving information on Chinese Medicine for Women. The topics included so far are: Women and Infertility, Massage During Pregnancy, Women and the I-Ching, Women and AIDS, Psychic and Spiritual Healing, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Women in Recovery, plus more. A small donation will be asked at the door for the Quan Yin Scholarship Fund for HIV-Infected Persons. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The Festival will take place at Quan Yin, 513 Valencia, on Sunday, October 30

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C A F E



CANTINA



AUGUST 22nd It's Monday night (after work), and, here in the shop it's nice and cool, Tom is back an playin' the pianna upstairs -he plays good- when he can't stand up- So I don't know. Peter was just down in the Darkroom... Shaun, was just looking for him and I am TIRED. But, one of the OLD Stories, came crawling back into my head the other day- and it went something like this...

I was walking north, on the East side of MISSION St. between 17th and 16th Sts. Then I seen IT! - (as a gust of wind-opened it up, for a second) and it closed back down again! LIKEN A TORN PAPER PAGE: I'd seen a Glimpse - of another time/ heard the cowboys yell... Seen the Cattle there/ and got a whiff of MANURE- and as I looked around- "They," hadn't seen it.- AT ALL: TALK,- TALK, - TALK. And as I looked WEST... Sun was just going down- over the Last Hill... So, I walked back, looked through again- it was REAL! I pulled it back- STEPPED Through, and pulled it CLOSED. Behind me, -and as I turned around- heard foreign voices behind me.... speak about the GRINGO tearing the paper. [as they nailed it up behind me.] A' VOICE within Spoke "Well, you're in baby- make the most of it! I HEARD THIS LOUD RATTLING, looked down, I was standing on a "DRAGON" SIZED RATTLER (voice with-in again) "GOOD start Kid," this might be the last of your SHORTER STORIES! "A Fearless Phantom grasped the reptile and SMASHED ITS HEAD to bits an' pieces on an OLD Kleenex There, amid a Cloud of Dust Scales, fangs, n' EYEBALLS were scattered- other snakes slithered away Muttering about he's some kinda MEAN. M.F. Then, HE STOOD and SHUTTERED I DIDN'T KNOW what I was doing. But I didn't have time to ERASE Him. "I'll buy ya a NICE WARM

BEER." and as the Dust Settled about us, The INDIANS N COWBOYS SLOWED DOWN. As we walked among the cattle- of NO BRANDS- yet! AND THERE to the EAST (about a block away) A NEW ADOBE, was being White Washed - and "THEY," were putting up a Sign, MARIA'S CANTINA- I looked around the horizon... nothing else (for a day's ride) LES TRY THIS PLACE! As, we walked up front An OLD MEXICAN GUY-of-SHARP KNIFE was whittlin OLD CACTUS WOOD making MEN of it!... had some BIG CLOCKWORKS there an Guitars; Regular -n- Bass- A Blacksmith's Bellows lay on the grounds- An A SMALL Boy "Spit-Polished" a Trumpet- and as we Step/ped inside- past the ARTISAN that had made the Swingin Doors the hardwood hinges- and gotten The Brass pins from Some-where MARIA-STOOD behind the open bottomed BAR... She, was A NICE ROUND LADY -maybe 35- that Smiled Alot, and in Another language asked What'll you fellows have? ... how being a STRANGER in a far off place... Let's make friends... So, I reached down into my jeans -turned out my pockets onto the Bar... Let's have drinks for ALL as far as it will go./ She smiled at the New pieces of eight, took out a pistol, "and where from my people have you STOLEN THESE?" "My Grandmother, when she married the Don, gave them to her on her death bed gave them to me!"... Somebody RANG A SMALL BELL- Somewhere- an ALL the Cowboys BELLIED up ta' the BAR... Talked about me and my STRANGE FRIEND Phantom- and some of the Drunker ones- wanted to FIGHT!! That is until Phantom took them outside, finished the OLD CARVERS work, put them together, put in the keys and wound them up- THEY ALL STARTED SINGING -n- playing (in unison) and we could do no wrong.

And as the Party grew louder I moved away from it... down to the end of the Bar. An OLD Grey Haired Moose, a'sat on a stool in the Corner- (try to envision Maria as a Beautiful Girl... Moose a-Dancin Atop the Bar.) (I spoke) "Say! Don't I know you?" He looked at me, slowly spoke Your GeeBah!... "My some Grandson has written me about you." "Gee! N How'd he do that?... " "Well, see you don't know mooses yet! ... But, you'll be here again- in another Time" (with Him). "N How Sir: can you know THAT?" He spoke thus... "Because I built the TIME MACHINE! ... I have opened the entrance for you and Phantom Today... I planted the Roses in 1933 and I sent the little people, the birds, bees flowers Butterflies Bugs and WEEDS that you write about... "Gosh Phan. IS THAT TRUE?" "Well, of course it is you Block Head."

G. MILLARD

WORK

Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC), a non-profit social service agency for people in San Francisco with all kinds of disabilities, always has dozens of part time jobs available. All you need to qualify for many jobs are the ability to follow instructions, to speak English, and proof of legal working status. In fact, if you have recent experience, you can often start working within one or two days.

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COMPLAINT DEPT.

I.

I've had this habit of talking in my sleep. I can't help it and really don't give a damn anyhow. The Patel who down here holds the reins called the fuzz, telling that I had an illegal visitor, just because I was talking in my sleep.

II.

Check out this COMPLAINT: At my mother's pad up in the Holly Park housing projects, two Ubangi chicks were tampering with the front of the stairs. If they knew I was there, they wouldn't ever think of [censored] with moms and her crib up there.

Here's the crux of this COMPLAINT of which you have been reading. I took a one hundred dollar bill down to an offshoot of the Argonaut loan and pawnshop seeking a .12 gauge Springfield shotgun to present to moms to be taught how to operate it then, when that's done, have her mount it to the top of the stairs, filled up to the max with .00 buck-shot. The place near Third & Market wouldn't sell the shotgun after laying it right in front of my face over a glass counter. I told the dude what happened and that it was not for me. It was for my own mother. I called him a Prick. Because he is. Ta heck with him.

No problem whatsoever. I saw R.M., he's a gun collector and he sold me a Remington model .870 .12 gauge pump action shotgun. I brought it over to her residence and taught her muzzle velocity, loading procedures, housing, how many cartridges the muzzle will take (which is five in the tube and one in the chamber). The trigger housing, muzzle velocity and all that other good stuff.

III.

This complaint is just as valid as the whiskers on Jesus Christ and Allen Ginsberg. I'd like to dish out the names, hotel and place but I may get more heat than I have already have knocking on my timber.

It's about paying rent to a Patel. My rent payment got jacked up and along with it an additional twelve cents was added to my expenditure. He came to my door and I gave him my money order but not the twelve cents and an argument erupted over it. He became infuriated so I went to my piggy bank and took out twelve pennies and threw them out in the hallway. What I should have done was to go tell the Sheriff's Department for non-payment of rent against me.

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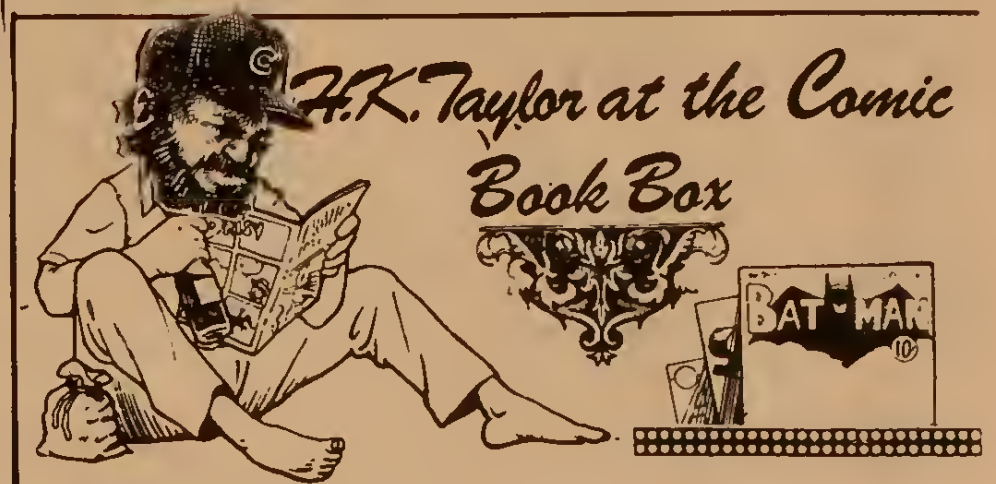
TONY RYAN
CARL ASHFORD

BRYAN BILBY
JOHN QUINN

IV.

I had just gotten out of General Hospital and came back to my Mission District hotel to watch my favorite TV program, Wheel of Fortune, light up a Hava Tampa cigar, fix up a brandy-Pepsi, take off my shoes as well as my sweater and open the back window when I heard my door being jiggled. It was two bloods. One had a knife attempting to undue the chain lock on my door. So I got off my bed and looked through the peephole. I went to my utility cabinet and got out my ex-father's butcher knife and a spear that I had made a few years ago and when I opened the door they ran.

So here I am, standing in the doorway waiting to see if they'd return. In the mean time, the Patel brought in two police rangers and one put a gun to my face ordering me to drop my spear and knife. They asked me what's this all about. I told them. They then took me to S.F.G.H.'s psycho ward where they shot me up with dope and I went to sleep and was cut loose the next morning with no bus fare to get home and had to walk a few miles to get back home.



TALE

Hast thou my dear sweet child heard the tale of Catmasters berth? Well harken into the old oak tree and I will tell the tale. Many years after the earth had destroyed itself with sin and hatred an invader came up from beneath the earth. Just a mouse they said but this mouse was a monster. He was wearing a robe. It had eleven heads and on each head it was wearing a crown. The monster's name was Emook Thoth Ui meaning "He who jumps into the River" and Emook spoke unto the people he sayeth if there be a champion in three days time in the valley called Narawalk Ni Wurkill meaning "The Valley of Silence" and here shall I three contest. The first called Magai Borsie Bagette together with heavy rocks. The second called Nuki L'mor sticks with sharp nails glued to them. The third called Cimurk Bat with the spickes on the outside. The object of these games is to fight for your life. I am a Master of all three and if he can beat me he will be the Master but if I beat him that person must die and let the games begin. So one by one they tried to beat Emook but all had failed and died.

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THURSDAY EVENING CONCERT SERIES

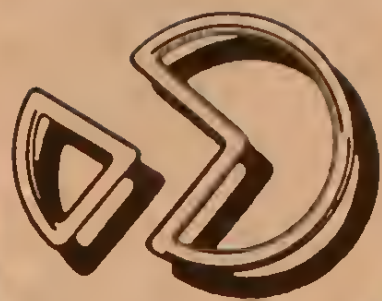
<p>oct 13 kuf's miles mellough \$5 <small>from KUF's Setup and Beyond Raccon Tour Miles Mellough with Beat Poetry and Jazz</small></p> <p>oct 20 redmond o'colonies \$6 <small>British comedy and music. * A great entertainer!! *</small></p> <p>oct 27 diane ferlatte/brenda wong aoki \$6 <small>stories in the oral and visual tradition Asian-Pacific Islands folk tales, legends and oral histories</small></p> <p>nov 3 daniel kane/suzie sounds \$5 <small>You've seen 'em on the street, now let's bring 'em in for a warm round of applause</small></p> <p>nov 10 chip haught \$5 <small>"Stringin'" you with acoustic rock n roll that will make even the buildings rock</small></p> <p>nov 17 aric rubin, robert marsanyi/the heavily righteous dude's \$5 <small>This guitarist and keyboardist have taught computers to improvise!</small></p> <p>dec 1 form over function \$6 <small>Sam Barry, JP Collins and Julia Willing perform "avant-garde pop" music!</small></p> <p>dec 8 barry smiler, paula rudman, kathy rote \$5 <small>Will be performing individually, in duo & trio this evening. Songs in the context of the real world will be sung and accompanied by guitar and dulcimer.</small></p> <p>dec 15 david barnett \$5</p> <p>dec 22 sharon knight \$5 <small>Guitarist, singer and player of mandolin and bodhran, she combines traditional music with her own poetry to bring romance and magic alive.</small></p>	<p>stone grove saxophone quartet \$5 <small>A heavily righteous group of young players of modern & classical music</small></p> <p>terra incognita \$6 <small>These new American sound weaves haunting echoes of old time country music, telling stories of the rich life of our continent and its people.</small></p> <p>gay ducey \$5 <small>Will tell S. Appalachian stories, jack tales and holiday tales for acroques, husbands and residents of chella.</small></p>
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all performances at 8:30
alligator
924 Valencia St. at 20th
san francisco 695-0845

CITY WALKABOUT

The City Guides, volunteers sponsored by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, offer free tours of historic areas of San Francisco from the hidden stairways and gardens of Russian Hill to the layers of history in the Haight/Ashbury.

For a schedule of walks, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to City Guides, c/o Friends of the Library, Civic Center, San Francisco CA 94102 or call 558-3981, Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 AM to 3 PM.



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